



***Welcome to the WoVOCon UnConference***

***“You Are Not Alone:  
Colleagues in Connectivity”***

**October 18-20, 2024  
The Royal Sonesta Chicago River  
North**

# Welcome to the WoVOCon UnConference

Hello and welcome to The Windy City, the City of Broad Shoulders, and the place I called home: Chicago! I am so proud to welcome you to WoVOCon VIII: The Voiceover UnConference. Along with Dan Lenard, President of World Voices, the Executive Board of WoVO, and all of the folks who have helped plan and support this event, we are thrilled to share this weekend with you. We hope you find something valuable to take home with you, whether it is a new friendship, a different technique, or just a new way to look at your work. Please look for anyone with a "STAFF" ribbon on their badge if you have any questions, and we'll be happy to help!

Enjoy WoVOCon!

George Washington III  
Producer, WoVOCon VIII: The Voiceover UnConference

## WiFi Login Instructions:

1. Connect your device to the "Sonesta Guest" network.
2. Scroll all the way down the page once connected, and accept the terms and conditions.
3. Launch your browser.

## Other Important Stuff

- **PHOTO SHARING:** Please share your WoVOCon VIII photos to Facebook on: [the WoVO Members Facebook Page](#) or <https://bit.ly/3BH8aJe>
- **HASHTAG:** Please the hashtag **#WoVO2024** for all WoVOCon-related social media posts. Thanks!
- **MESSAGE BOARD:** There is a large white message board in Gallery 2 & 3 for you to leave messages for each other. Example: "Wanna do Mexican food tonight? Text Bob at 456-789-0123".
- **GOT QUESTIONS?:** If you have any questions or issues, find someone wearing a "STAFF" button or badge ribbon. They'll be glad to help you!

## WoVOCon Gives Back

In the spirit of the UnConference, where everyone has something to contribute to the experience, we want to leave Chicago just a little better than we found it. We are partnering with NAMI Chicago in helping WoVOCon attendees with their personal and professional mental health, and we are delighted to choose them as our local charity. Donations for NAMI Chicago can be sent via Venmo or PayPal to our point person, Karyn O'Bryant, who will tally up donations and present NAMI with what we hope will be a huge ball of cash to help support the amazing and crucial work they do.

For Venmo, send donations with the tag "NAMI" to: [@Karyn\\_OBryant](#)

For PayPal, send donations with the tag "NAMI" to: [karyn@karynobryant.com](mailto:karyn@karynobryant.com)

# WoVOCon UnConference DO's & DON'Ts

## DON'T

- **Don't** assume anyone else knows more (or less) than you do. You never know who is going to be interested in what you think or are concerned about ... or even your success.
- **Don't** be upset if only two people show up to a breakout session you suggested. Those two people are the ones who share your interests, and they really want to know what you have to offer.
- **Don't** feel that you have to "fill" up a specific amount of time. If what you have to say only takes 15 minutes and the group has finished interacting — then the session can end. At the start of WoVOCon UnConference, we will discuss guidelines for how this can happen.
- **Don't** feel pressure to have everything take "only" an hour. If you start with a short presentation, then a group conversation gets going, and your discussion needs to continue beyond an hour — find a way to make this happen.

## DO

- **Do** develop some ideas about what motivates you, what is bothering you (and a possible solution), and prepare to have fun!
- **Do** be brave! Others are interested in what you have to say. Really.
- **Do** think about the ideas that you want to discuss, and how you want to cover them. But do not feel as though you need to prepare a great deal. (If you are over-prepared, you might lose energy.)
- **Do** remember: there is no such thing as "failure" at WoVOCon UnConference!

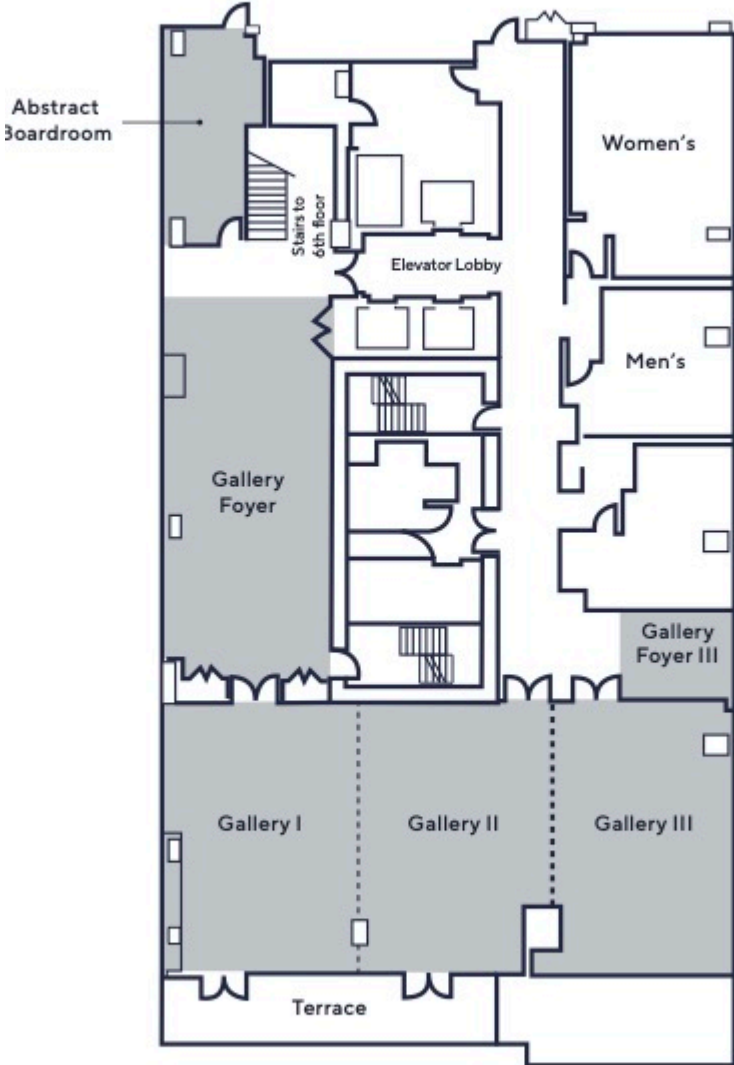
## 'Pat on the Back' Stickers

It started as a little prank. In 2017, the producers of WoVOCon IV were brainstorming ways to give attendees an opportunity to give each other kudos for being awesome in some way. They hatched a mischievous plan. Whereas in previous WoVOCons, people gave out tokens of appreciation for "gold nuggets" or above-and-beyond helpfulness, they said, "Why not just give people a LITERAL pat on the back?" And so Pat Sweeney, a beloved Canadian voice actor and frequent WoVOCon attendee, became the unwitting mascot for the new "Pat on the Back" stickers. Pat was such a good sport about all the folks walking around the conference with his face on their backs, and everyone had a great time with it. It was so much fun that we made "Pat on the Back" stickers for WoVOCon V (with Pat's blessing this time, of course).

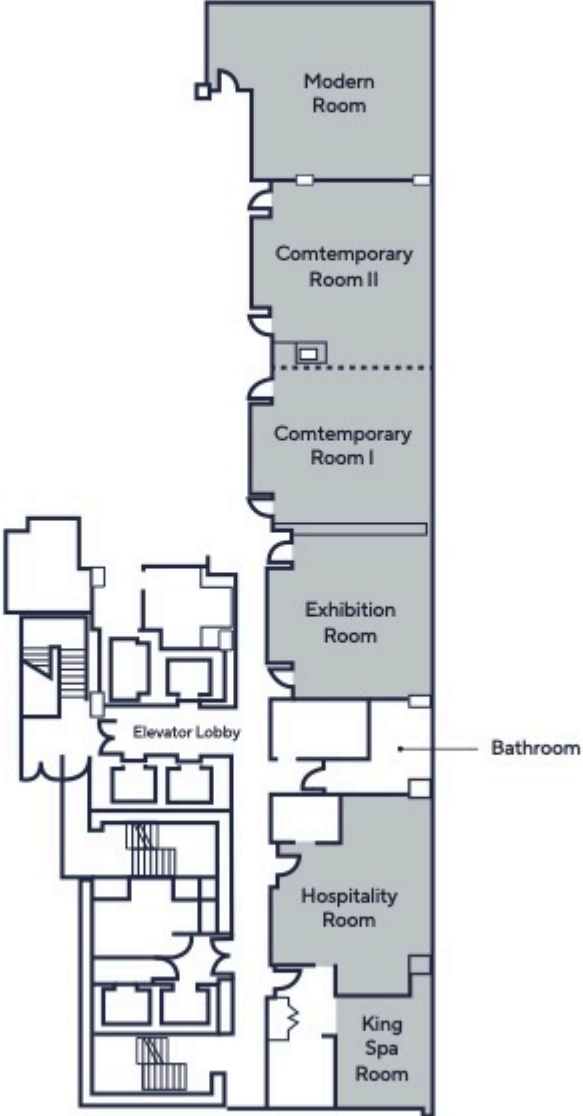
On December 26, 2018, Pat lost his brave battle with cancer. He was such a huge part of the voiceover community, and such a wonderful person – he is missed tremendously to this day. In his honor, "Pat on the Back" stickers became an annual tribute to this amazing, funny, smart, caring friend. Please join us in celebrating his memory – and each other – by giving someone a hearty "Pat on the Back" for their awesome contribution to your growth as a voice over performer or businessperson.

# WoVOCon UnConference Facility Map

5TH FLOOR



6TH FLOOR



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Friday, October 18 Schedule:

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	INFORMATION
noon - 2 p.m.	Gallery Foyer I	WoVOCon Registration Open / Check-In	
noon - 5 p.m.	Gallery Foyer I	WoVOCon Cafe (Coffee, Tea, & Water)	
3 - 5:30 p.m.	Gallery I, II, III	<b>General Session:</b> Welcome, Orientation, Information Gathering	<b>ALL ATTENDEES PLEASE ATTEND</b>
5:30 - 7 p.m.	Gallery Foyer I	Networking Mixer (Cash Bar & Snacks)	<i>Sponsored by Source Elements</i>
7 p.m. - ???		Dinner (On Your Own)	
After 9 p.m.	Gallery II, III	SESSION SCHEDULE REVEAL!	

## Saturday, October 19 Schedule:

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	INFORMATION
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Modern Room	Friends of Bill W. Gathering	
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Check-In Desk	Late Registration/Check-In	
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Gallery I	Continental Breakfast	<i>Sponsored by Best of Both Worlds VO (Liz de Nesnera)</i>
9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Hospitality	WoVOCon Cafe (Coffee, Tea, & Water)	
9:30 - 10 a.m.	Gallery II, III	<b>General Session:</b> Welcome, Announcements, and Agenda	<b>ALL ATTENDEES PLEASE ATTEND</b>
10 - 11:50 a.m.	Gallery II, III	Special Presentation	
12 - 1 p.m.	Gallery I	Lunch	<i>Sponsored by Debbie Irwin Voiceovers</i>
12:45 - 1 p.m.	Gallery II, III	<b>CONVENTION GROUP PHOTO</b>	<b>ALL ATTENDEES PLEASE ATTEND</b>
1 - 1:50 p.m.	6th Floor	Concurrent Session One	
2 - 2:50 p.m.	6th Floor	Concurrent Session Two	

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	INFORMATION
3 - 3:30 p.m.	Gallery I	Snack Break	<i>Sponsored by Suffolk &amp; Goode Players (MyFriendLyssa.com)</i>
3:30 - 4:20 p.m.	6th Floor	Concurrent Session Three	
4:30 - 5:20 p.m.	6th Floor	Concurrent Session Four	
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Gallery II, III	<b>General Session:</b> Announcements	<b>ALL ATTENDEES PLEASE ATTEND</b>
6:30 - ??? p.m.		Dinner On Your Own	
8 - 10 p.m.	Gallery I, II, III	Silent Disco	

## Sunday, October 20 Schedule:

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	INFORMATION
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Modern Room	Non-Denominational Worship	
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Gallery I	Continental Breakfast	<i>Sponsored by Jack deGolia</i>
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Hospitality	WoVOCon Cafe (Coffee, Tea, & Water)	<i>Sponsored by Dan Lenard</i>
9:30 - 10 a.m.	Gallery II-III	<b>General Session:</b> Welcome, Announcements	<b>ALL ATTENDEES PLEASE ATTEND</b>
10 - 10:50 a.m.	6th Floor	Concurrent Session Five	
11 - 11:50 a.m.	6th Floor	Concurrent Session Six	
12 - 1 p.m.	Gallery I	Lunch	<i>Sponsored by VO Evolution (George Washington III) &amp; Amador Bilingual VoiceOvers (Rosie, Brian, and Zia)</i>
1 - 1:50 p.m.	6th Floor	Concurrent Session Seven (or Encore)	
2 - 3 p.m.	Gallery II-III	<b>General Session:</b> Announcements & Farewell	<b>ALL ATTENDEES PLEASE ATTEND</b>

# Hotel and Transportation Information

## Hotel name/address:

Royal Sonesta Chicago River North  
505 N State St, Chicago, IL 60654  
[\(312\) 755-9703](tel:3127559703)

## Transportation:

1. Taxi or Rideshare (Uber/Lyft) Time: Approximately 30-50 minutes, depending on traffic.  
Cost: Around \$40-\$60.  
Other transportation companies: <https://sit.ghe.mybluehost.me/>  
Chicago Transportation Services | Midway Airport Car Service  
<https://www.ametransportation.com/>  
Windy City Limousine & Bus <https://windycitylimos.com/>  
Details: Follow signs for taxis or rideshares outside the terminal.
2. Airport Shuttle – check <https://www.flychicago.com> for your airport  
Check for shuttle services like GO Airport Express <https://www.airportexpress.com/>  
Cost: up to 3 passengers/3 bags \$78  
Book in advance if possible.
3. Public Transit
  - O'Hare (CTA Blue Line + Bus/Walk)  
Time: Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.  
Cost: \$5 (train fare).  
Details: Take the Blue Line train from O'Hare to Washington Station.  
Transfer to the 156 or 151 bus, or walk (about 15-20 minutes) to the hotel.
  - Midway (CTA Orange Line + Red Line/Walk)  
Time: Approximately 45 minutes.  
Cost: \$5 (train fare).  
Details: Take the CTA Orange Line train from Midway to the "State & Harold Washington" stop. Transfer to the Red Line at "State & 35th" and head north. Get off at "Chicago" station and walk a few blocks to the hotel. This option is more economical but may take longer.
4. Rental Car  
Time: Similar to taxi/rideshare.  
Details: Follow signs to the rental car center at the airport, then drive to the hotel.  
Hotel Parking info: If you're driving in, The Royal Sonesta Chicago River North offers valet parking for an overnight fee of \$75 per night with three in-and-out privileges.



# CHICAGO: What to Eat, See, and Do

(near the location of WoVOCon '24)

*Huge thanks to Tom Test and Pam Tierney for their hometown inside scoop!*

## [GOOGLE MAPS LINK](#)

with all the information below mapped & described.

### Restaurants (mostly within walking distance)

- **Asian:** unless you Uber to Chinatown, frankly Chicago's Chinese restaurants are mediocre. But for some reason, we have a ton of great Thai places – but none within walking distance.
- **Breakfast:** There's a great breakfast place in Marina City - [Yolk](#) at 340 N. State [www.eatyolk.com](#) It opens at 7am for the early risers.
- **Cafe:** For more price-conscious people the [food court](#) at the Nordstrom mall is delish – as is [Cafe Nordstrom](#) in the store itself.
- **Cheezburger:** The famous [Billy Goat Tavern](#) is just below Michigan Ave (Lower Michigan) at Hubbard. Home to the Cheezburger, Cheezburger of SNL fame, the burgers are actually not bad and the buns are yummy. Can get overrun with tourists but definitely worth a stop.
- **Chicago Dog** with all the fixins? Get one at any of the Italian Beef places, or [Portillo's](#).
- **Pizza:** If you must try Chicago deep-dish, I only recommend two places: There is a [Lou Malnati's](#) within walking distance. [Pizza Uno and Due](#) are close-by Chicago-style joints, but avoid Gino's East. But the BEST choice is [Pequod's](#), which has a national rep; grab an Uber (it's not walkable), and prepare to wait in line. Another Italian/pizza place is [Pizzeria Portofino's](#). They are a bit more upscale than a Chicago-style place but have craft pizzas, pasta, and seafood; and it's right on the river, so the view can't be beat.
- **Italian Beef:** If you've watched The Bear and want to try an Italian Beef, the absolute best is the [Al's Italian Beef](#) (that's an Uber ride). Within walking distance are another Al's store (not as good as the original on Taylor but still good), or [Mr. Beef](#) (which I do believe is THE store you see on The Bear!). Lines might be shorter at Al's.
- **Italian:** [Eataly's](#) is a tourist trap, but I think the food there is pretty darn good. It features many options on several floors along with shopping, mostly cafeteria-style. If you want a sit down experience, [Quartino's](#) is a lot of fun for groups – it's small, shareable plates. [Osetario via Stato](#) is very good. In the mid range (\$30-50) is [Volare](#) – it's homestyle Italian with transformational tiramisu. They can handle large crowds with ease. An Uber ride away: [Anteprima](#) in Andersonville is a personal favorite.
- **Mexican:** Rick Bayless has several restaurants in Chicago, the first I'll suggest is [Xoco](#), which is very casual Mexican “street food.” It's cafeteria style and pretty reasonable, and the food knocks my socks off. [Su Casa Mexican](#) is pretty good in the \$20-\$40 range. \$\$\$ and up Mexican options: [Indienne](#) – very pricey but the memories will last a lifetime, if you want to splurge and enjoy one of the best meals of your life. Upscale, innovative, Indian-inspired cuisine, gorgeously presented. Some say the vegan menu is the best. [Carnivale](#) – a very fun and colorful place in the Fulton Market neighborhood.
- **Seafood:** [Shaw's Crab House](#) is an amazing seafood place. They have a very nice dining room with white tablecloths and professional waiters, and a more intimate casual Oyster Bar. You can get the full menu in the bar. A little expensive but never disappoints.
- **Steak and Basic Italian:** [Harry Caray's](#) - somewhat pricey and gets a fair amount of tourists but it never disappoints.
- **Steak and Seafood:** [Wollensky's](#) has a great atmosphere. Also on the river Wollensky Grill is in the \$25-50 entree range, but is yummy and the pretzel rolls are divine.



- **Jazz:** [Andy's Jazz Club](#) is a fantastic place to grab a bite and hear live Jazz music. It's a quiet room, so no talking during the performance. There is a \$20 cover charge, but a really good evening to be had. They usually have 3 shows a night.
- **Live Music:** [Howl At the Moon](#) is fun. They have mostly bar appetizers, but the atmosphere is infectious. It is noisy, but might be a good option for people.

## Fun Things to DO or SEE:

- **River Walk.** It goes from the lake all the way over to where the river splits north and south. You can access it from the south side of the river at most intersections from staircases that go down to river level. There are lots of tourists on the walk but it's well lit, has some overpriced restaurants, and loads of police presence (so safety shouldn't be an issue). It's a great free way to see the city from the river viewpoint. And we are very proud of our river. There still should be fairly decent boat traffic that time of year, weather dependent.
- **The Apple Store** is right on the river at Michigan Ave, and is worth a stop. It's a beautiful store with a fantastic view. The Windows people won't be interested, but the Maccies will.
- Chicago is world HQ for [McDonalds](#), and we have an international MickeyD's at 1035 W. Randolph Street. This is the home of [Hamburger University](#) and they test out a lot of different food recipes there. They have the expected, but they also rotate global offerings throughout the year. It's pretty cool to see what other nations eat (like Aloo Tikki Indian, McCafe apple fritter, Canada's ghost pepper McChicken, China's Cheese and BBQ fries). It's a cab ride or Uber away.
- **Magic:** Chicago is becoming more renowned for its magic! There are several extraordinarily entertaining options, and they aren't overly expensive.
- **Untouchable Gangster Tours** is the oldest gangster tour in Chicago and a grand old time to see a lot of the city. The guides are all actors and love to share fun stories about the city's criminal past. Tell them (Hanna Vergara) sent you, and the boss can help you figure out a private tour or offer a group rate on one of the regular tours.
- The **Architecture Cruise** is probably my favorite touristy thing to do. Offered through the architecture foundation.
- Go to the **Tribune Tower** and look at the [stones on the walls](#) from 3000 years of world history.
- **Ghirardelli Chocolate** is right on the river, and it's fun to get cocoa or a sundae and watch the boats.

*A word about Yelp reviews. Yelp is a super helpful app, but it is not gospel. Some reviewers' favorite places in town are only rated 3.5 – 4.0 stars. On the other hand, some highly-rated places can disappoint. It depends on your expectations and experience with food. A super-authentic ethnic restaurant may not please all palates, but for those who know the cuisine they are the best choices – and many are not above 4 stars!*

# Thank you, WoVOCon UnConference sponsors!

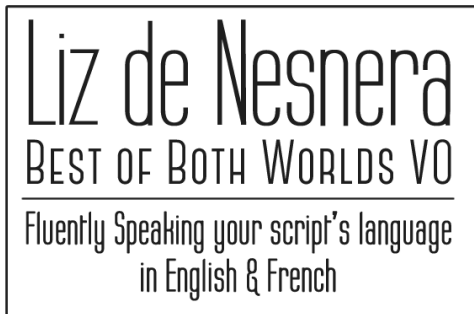
## Ad Partner



## Friday Mixer

**SOURCE  
ELEMENTS**

## Saturday Breakfast



## Saturday Lunch



## Sunday Breakfast



## Sunday Lunch

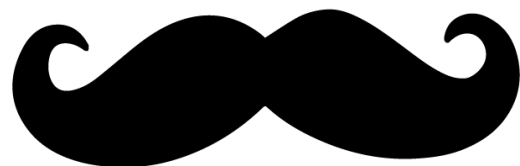


## Saturday Snacks



## Sunday WoVOCon Cafe

**DAN LENARD**



The "Knowledgeable" Voice

**WoVO thanks our**  
**Platinum Sponsor**



To Our Valued Attendees:  
*Thank you* for being a part of  
the WoVOCon UnConference 2024 ...

*... and join us again next year!*