
CONFERENCE FAQ

113TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE | LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you for joining us in L.A.! We look forward to seeing you!



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Please see the following list of *Frequently Asked Questions* to best assist you with the registration process and any additional questions regarding **GFOA's 113th Annual Conference, May 19-22, 2019, at the Los Angeles Convention Center in Los Angeles, California.**

MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION/ SUBSTITUTION

My government is a member of GFOA. Does that make me eligible to receive the membership rate for the Annual Conference?

Only individuals listed as members of GFOA are eligible to receive the member rate, but we do allow for a one-for-one substitution for government entities if one of your members cannot attend the annual conference—just mark the information in section 1 on the [conference registration form](#) or e-mail the name and complete contact information (title, government, address, e-mail address, and phone number) of the replacement to conference@gfoa.org. It is also easy to add individuals to your government's membership by submitting the [membership application](#).

I am a member of my state GFOA. Does this make me eligible to receive the GFOA member discount rates?

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) members receive the discounted rates, but if you join today you can take advantage of the lower rate as well as receive \$25 off your conference

registration fee. Please visit GFOA's membership [webpage](#) for an application.

When I register online, is my GFOA membership number my password?

Each GFOA member who has used the e-store would have created a unique login and password that is different than his/her membership number. If you have misplaced your login and/or password information, we are happy to help you. Please e-mail logins@gfoa.org.

I need to register multiple staff from my office. Can I create an account online and register everyone under that account?

At this time groups of individuals cannot be registered together online, but please submit the group of registrations together with payment via mail, fax, or scan and e-mail to conference@gfoa.org.

What are the conference registration fees?

[Click here](#) to read about fees, register online, or access the conference registration form.

Can I register for the conference over the phone?

We offer multiple ways you can register for the conference, but we do not accept registrations over the phone. Please use the method that best works for you. You can register online using GFOA's [e-store](#) or you can submit the [conference registration form](#) via mail (203 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60601), fax (312.977.4806), or scan and e-mail it to conference@gfoa.org.



Once I submit my conference registration, will a fax or e-mail confirmation be sent to me?

Please keep a watch on your e-mail as a copy of the confirmation and invoice will be sent **to the registrant only** as a PDF attachment from training@gfoa.org. **If you have not yet done so, please add this address to your allowed senders list to make sure you receive the confirmation.**

What are the dates for the cancellation and refund policy?

March 29, 2019 No fee for cancellations received before this date.

March 30, 2019 Cancellations postmarked between March 30 and April 30 will be refunded, less a 25 percent service fee.

May 1, 2019 Cancellations postmarked between May 1 and May 5 will be refunded, less a 50 percent service fee.

May 15, 2019 No refunds will be issued this date forward.

I cannot attend the full conference. Do you have a one-day rate available?

We offer a one-day rate on either Monday, May 20, 2019, or Tuesday, May 21, 2019. You will have access to all conference sessions, meetings, luncheons, and exhibits held on that date. [Click here](#) for the registration form to mail, fax, or scan and e-mail to GFOA.

What meals are included with the conference registration fee?

BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Welcome Breakfast.

MONDAY, MAY 20 AND TUESDAY, MAY 21

Breakfast bites will be provided before the general session near Hall G.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Breakfast bites will be provided in the South Lobby.

COFFEE

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Coffee will be available during the Welcome Breakfast.

MONDAY, MAY 20 AND TUESDAY, MAY 21

Coffee will be available before the general session near Hall G.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Coffee will be available near registration in the South Lobby.

LUNCHEONS

Luncheons will be open to all registered delegates, but not to exhibitors and guests. A name badge is necessary for admittance to both luncheons—please make sure your badge is accessible. This is a great opportunity to network with fellow attendees. *General seating is available. We ask that you please do not save seats or tables. **Dessert will be available in the Exhibit Hall, Hall K.***

MONDAY, MAY 20, DELEGATE LUNCHEON

12:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Hall HJ

TUESDAY, MAY 21, DELEGATE LUNCHEON

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Hall HJ

SNACKS

Enjoy afternoon snacks on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Displays will be



set up outside session rooms throughout the convention center.

FIRST-TIME ANNUAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE SCHOLARSHIPS

I am a recipient of the first-time annual conference attendee scholarship. How do I maximize my conference experience?

At GFOA Registration in the Los Angeles Convention Center, pick up a conference badge and a first-time conference attendee pin. We ask for all GFOA attendees to join us in saying “Welcome!”

Will there be any dedicated events held for the recipients of first-time conference attendee scholarships?

We encourage first-time attendees to meet with their mentor groups at the Welcome Breakfast on Sunday.

Who is eligible to apply for the scholarship?

GFOA encourages **national GFOA active government members who are first-time conference attendees** to apply.

Membership in a state or provincial association does not transfer to national GFOA membership. If you are not an active government member of the GFOA, join the association today! Go to GFOA’s membership [webpage](#) to read about benefits and to complete a membership application. We are happy to help with any membership questions you may have—e-mail membership@gfoa.org.

What does the scholarship include?

GFOA strives to provide leadership to the government finance profession through education, research, and best practices. Nowhere are these efforts more apparent than at GFOA’s Annual Conference. To keep with our commitment, the scholarship will be awarded in the amount of the full-conference registration fee* to participate in the 113th Annual Conference, May 19-22, 2019, in Los Angeles, California.

**Scholarship recipients are responsible for their own travel and hotel expenses.*

Does the scholarship also include the preconference seminar registration fees?

GFOA’s preconference seminars provide an opportunity for attendees to get in-depth training on topics vitally important to finance officers. Come to Los Angeles on Friday, May 17, 2019, and/or Saturday, May 18, 2019, and multiply the benefits you’ll get by signing up for these training offerings. The preconference seminars are in addition to the annual conference registration fee. [Click here](#) if you are interested in registering for a preconference seminar.

I am a current GFOA active government member and attended only one day of a past annual conference. Am I still eligible to apply for the scholarship?

We thank you for your past participation in the GFOA Annual Conference. One-day conference attendance is considered participation in the annual conference. The scholarship is awarded to GFOA active government members who will be



participating in the annual conference for the very first time.

I was a member of GFOA years ago and attended past conferences. I am interested in joining the association again. Would I be eligible to apply for the scholarship?

Benefit from your membership in GFOA with a discount on the Annual Conference registration fee, as well as discounts on training courses and publications throughout the year. The scholarship is awarded to GFOA active government members who have never attended a GFOA Annual Conference.

How many scholarships will be awarded?

At this time, all scholarships allotted to applicants from the states of California and Texas have been awarded. There are still scholarships available for applicants from all other states and provinces.

How do I apply for the scholarship?

Please complete the [application](#) and e-mail it to firstannualconference@gfoa.org.

Do I need to submit a deposit to “hold” the scholarship?

Applicants must submit a credit card valid through June 2019, which will be charged \$125 ONLY if the applicant is awarded a scholarship but does not attend the Annual Conference, unless they contact GFOA to withdraw from the program prior to the conference (no penalty for withdrawal). GFOA charges this no-show fee to discourage anyone

from taking up one of the 50 spots allotted for their state/province if they do not intend to attend the Annual Conference. If you need to cancel for any reason, please contact us so we can offer your scholarship to an applicant on the wait list.

Is there a deadline date to submit the scholarship application?

To help us plan ahead, we encourage you to send in your application as soon as possible. The scholarship applications will be accepted through May 5, 2019.

Is my application *complete* once I submit it?

An application is *complete* when all parts of the form have been filled out and payment (credit card or check) has been received by GFOA.

How do I know if I was selected to receive a scholarship?

A GFOA staff member will e-mail you to let you know if you have been selected to receive this year’s scholarship.

GUESTS

I’m already registered for the conference. How do I reserve badges for my guests?

It’s easy to reserve badges for your guests. You can add guest badges through your online account on the [e-store](#) by selecting the “Add/Edit Badges” tab. You can also request additional guest badges by e-mailing badges@gfoa.org. If your guests are children/young adults under 21,



please list their age. There is no registration fee for guests or children.

What events are my guests allowed to attend?

We encourage your guests to attend the Sunday Welcome Breakfast and to stroll through the Exhibit Hall. Please go ahead and pre-register them so they can receive a badge to access these events.

PRECONFERENCE SEMINARS

What are preconference seminars?

Maximize your educational experience by participating in seminars designed so you can take a more in-depth look into current issues or topics before the conference even begins! GFOA’s preconference seminars offer a great opportunity for you to earn additional CPE credits. **This year’s preconference seminars will take place on Friday, May 17, 2019, and Saturday, May 18, 2019.**

What are this year’s preconference offerings? How do I register? Will breakfast or lunch be available?

[Click here](#) for details.

Does the 10% discount for a group of 3 or more people attending the conference include the preconference seminars?

The discount only applies to the Annual Conference registration fee.

Where are the preconference seminars being held?

They are being held at the following address:

Los Angeles Convention Center
1201 South Figueroa Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90015

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

What is the address of the convention center where the sessions are being held?

Los Angeles Convention Center
1201 South Figueroa Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Do I need to pre-select the concurrent sessions I plan to attend at conference?

You can get a jumpstart and plan ahead by reviewing session information before the conference, but you have the flexibility to choose which sessions you want to attend upon your arrival. Visit our [website](#) for a schedule of sessions.

Who are this year’s keynote speakers?

GFOA’s 113th Annual Conference will include three featured keynote speakers: Charmaine Brown, James and Deborah Fallows, and Peter Bregman. Keynote presentations will focus on delivering a perspective about current events, public finance knowledge, and essential leadership skills that can benefit all finance professionals. [Click here](#) for details.

CONFERENCE BADGES

When will I receive my conference delegate badge?

Conference badges have been mailed to all paid delegates. If you do not receive



your badge in the mail or need to make a change to your badge, we ask that you please resolve any adjustments onsite by visiting **GFOA Registration in the South Lobby of the convention center.**

Appropriate signs will be marked for lines where you can pick up a badge or make changes or additions. The conference registration hours follow:
Saturday, May 18 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, May 19 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Monday, May 20 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday, May 21 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, May 22 8:00 am – 11:00 am

EXHIBIT HALL

What are the details for this year’s Exhibit Hall?

RIBBON CUTTING



Sunday, May 19 10:00 a.m.

Festivities will include a ribbon cutting and Starbucks gift cards to the first 113 delegates in line for the hall’s opening (prizes exclude guests and children).

EXHIBIT HOURS

Sunday, May 19 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday, May 20 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We encourage you to visit the Exhibit Hall for a hands-on demonstration of the latest innovations designed to save your government time and money! Check out the [list of exhibitors](#) to plan what booths you would like to visit.

When will I receive my exhibitor badge?

“**Exhibitor/delegate**” badges have been mailed to exhibitors who paid to participate in this year’s sessions.

Complimentary Exhibitors who submitted forms before May 1st have been mailed badges. Those who did not submit before May 1st may pick up their badges during GFOA registration hours.

Please go to the “Exhibitor” line at GFOA Registration.

How do I make a change and/or addition to our booth staff?

If you have any **changes or additions** to make to your booth staff, please e-mail conference@gfoa.org as soon as possible before the start of the conference. If you have changes to make onsite, please resolve them in the “**Exhibitor**” line at GFOA Registration in the convention center.

If you are interested in exhibiting, [click here](#) to access the contract and floorplan.

If you have a company to suggest that you think would be a great exhibitor for GFOA’s Annual Conference, please e-mail conference@gfoa.org.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

How do I become a conference sponsor?

Sponsorship is a great way to get your company noticed beyond the Exhibit Hall floor. [Click here](#) to view this year’s opportunities and pledge form. If you have a custom idea, contact [Barb Mollo](#).



HOUSING

Who is GFOA’s official housing company?

Experient is the ONLY **official** housing company for this event and will not contact attendees directly to make a reservation. Booking through GFOA’s **official** housing provider will ensure that attendees receive the GFOA discounted rate and are working with a reputable company and that credit card information is secure.

What hotels are included in the official GFOA block? How do I reserve a room?

Please Note: Housing is now closed! Due to the proximity of the event dates, please contact your hotel directly to change or cancel your current reservation. If you require a new reservation, you may contact the GFOA Conference hotels (phone numbers below) or you may [click here](#) to check availability, current rates and make a reservation at not only the GFOA Conference Hotels but other hotels in the area. NOTE: whether you call the GFOA Conference Hotels or utilize the link above, the conference hotels may have availability over the event dates but conference rates are not guaranteed and will need to be confirmed when making your reservation.

Courtyard Marriott L.A. LIVE	213-443-9200
Freehand Hotel	213-612-0021
Hotel Figueroa	213-627-8971
Hotel Indigo LA Downtown	877-834-3613
Intercontinental LA Downtown	213-688-7777
JW Marriott LA Live	213-765-8600
LA Grand Hotel Downtown	213-617-1133

Luxe City Center Hotel	213-748-1291
Millennium Biltmore Hotel	213-624-1011
Omni Los Angeles	213-617-3300
Residence Inn by Marriott L.A. Live	213-443-9200
Sheraton Grand Los Angeles	213-488-3500
Standard Downtown LA Hotel	213-892-8080
Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites	213-624-1000

Are the GFOA official hotels within walking distance of the convention center?

Reserve your room in GFOA’s **official** hotel block and you’ll have a great opportunity to network with other conference attendees outside the convention center. GFOA will run courtesy shuttle between The L.A. Grand, Sheraton, The Standard, Westin, InterContinental, Freehand, Millennium, Omni, and the convention center. All other hotels in the GFOA **official** block are within walking distance to the convention center. See the following page for a shuttle schedule.



LOGISTICS

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

DATE	INTERVAL	HOURS
Saturday, May 18	30 minutes	7:30am-11:30am
	30 minutes	1:30pm-5:30pm
Sunday, May 19	20 minutes	7:30am-12:00pm
	30 minutes	12:00pm-4:00pm
	20 minutes	4:00pm-6:00pm
Monday, May 20	20 minutes	8:00am-12:00pm
	30 minutes	12:00pm-4:00pm
	20 minutes	4:00pm-6:00pm
Tuesday, May 21	20 minutes	8:00am-12:00pm
	30 minutes	12:00pm-6:30pm
Closing Event, May 21	Continuous*	6:30pm-10:30pm
Wednesday, May 22	30 minutes	8:00am-12:30pm
HOTEL	ROUTE	BOARDING
The L.A. Grand	1	Walk to Westin Bonaventure; Figueroa St.
Sheraton Grand Los Angeles	1	On Hope St. near entrance
The Standard	1	Across S. Flower St.
Westin Bonaventure	1	Figueroa St.
InterContinental L.A.	2	7th Street
The Freehand	3	Across 8th W. 8th St.
Millennium Biltmore	3	Across Grand Ave.
Omni L.A.	3	On Olive St.

*Continuous between hotels with shuttle service and The Microsoft Theater.

What is the best way to travel to Los Angeles? Does GFOA have any arranged travel discounts? Once I'm in Los Angeles, how do I get around?

[Click here](#) to read about airline and rail travel, as well as options for public transportation. Airline discounts are included in the link.

Will shuttle buses be provided from the airport to my hotel?

Conference attendees are responsible for their own travel to/from the airport, but there are plenty of public transportation options that will take you from the airport to your hotel. [Click here](#) to read more on page 16 of the brochure.

I am renting a car. Do you have any arranged discounts?

GFOA also has arranged for discounts on rental cars through Hertz. [Click here](#) for details on page 16 of the brochure.

GFOA EVENTS

Will there be a Welcome Reception and Closing Event?

Join your colleagues for a welcome breakfast in the convention center, Sunday, May 19, 2019, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. The Closing Event features stand-up comedian Jim Gaffigan followed by dancing and music by The Red Hot Band. See our [Social Events](#) page for more details.

ABOUT LOS ANGELES

Will tours be available?

[Click here](#) to read about this year's offerings and to sign up online.

What weather can be expected in May?

Springtime visitors to L.A. will experience warm days, averaging around 70 degrees. For the latest weather information, go to weatherchannel.com.

What other activities can I plan for in Los Angeles?

[Click here](#) for information about other activities that may not be included in the tour offerings.

GENERAL INQUIRIES

What is the dress attire for the preconference seminars and conference sessions?

We recommend wearing business casual attire and comfortable shoes.

Where can I find the latest information on the conference?

Stay up-to-date on current developments by visiting www.gfoa.org and clicking on the "Annual Conference" tab.

During the conference, where should I go to ask questions?

Stop by GFOA's Message Center and Products and Services booth in the **South Lobby** to keep up to date on recent GFOA activity. GFOA technical staff will be on hand to answer practical questions on issues related to accounting, financial

reporting, and budget presentation, as well as how to participate or become a reviewer in one of GFOA's professional recognition programs. Members of GFOA's Research and Consulting will be available to discuss consulting opportunities, research projects, training events, GFOA best practices, and more.

What should I do if I have a question that is not on this list?

We're happy to assist you with any additional questions you may have on this year's event. Please e-mail conference@gfoa.org.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

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