Good luck to all dancers at this year's Oireachtas!

This guide should help you with some helpful info and basic instructions for the weekend. We look forward to welcoming you all in Milwaukee, WI!

Baird Center: 400 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

Hilton Milwaukee Downtown: 509 W Wisconsin Ave

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee Downtown: 333 W Kilbourn Ave

Information:

Facebook

IDTAMA Website

QuickFeis

Information about The Baird Center

Baird Center: 400 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

NO OUTSIDE FOOD or BEVERAGE is to be taken into the Baird
Please note that this F&B rule is the policy of the Baird. Security will not let you in with food. Exceptions are made for those with allergies. The Baird is a cashless facility. Please be prepared to use a credit card for all food and beverage purchases.

Our competitions will be taking place on the third and fourth floors:

Stages A - D will be in the exhibit halls on the 3rd floor.
Stages E - G will be in the Baird Ballrooms on the 4th floor.

The Baird Center will be open to the public for our event during the following times:

Thursday, November 27th from 2pm – 9pm
Friday, November 28th from 6am – 10pm
Saturday, November 29th from 5am – 10pm
Sunday, November 30th from 6am – 10pm

The Baird Center will be accessible to enter by four main entrances:

1. The Skywalk between the Hyatt Regency & the Baird
2. The Skywalk between the Hilton & the Baird
3. The main North Entrance to the building (which is 405 W Kilbourn)
4. The main South Entrance to the building (which is 400 W Wisconsin)

Parking at the Baird

There are 300 spaces reserved at the Baird center each day for our event (this number was based on number of people that used the parking garage last year). Please use this QR code* for a discounted rate ($15/day):



*This image is also included at the end of this document & will be posted on social media. The rate of $15/day is subject to availability. Once the lot is full, the discounted rate will not apply.

HOTELS

We have TWO flagship host hotels: Hilton & Hyatt Regency.

Some things to note about each of these properties:

HILTON: 509 W Wisconsin Ave

- The Hilton is connected to the South side of the Baird Center via a skywalk that connects to the hotel on its third floor.
- There is a public practice room in "Wright Ballroom A"

HYATT REGENCY: 333 W Kilbourn Ave

- The Hyatt is connected to the North side of the Baird Center via a skywalk that connects to the hotel on its second floor.
- There is a public practice room in "Lakeshore C"
- The official tanning vendor – Celebrity Skin – is in "Lakeshore B"
- The makeup vendors will all be set up in "Lakeshore A"

Other hotel properties in the block include the following:

1. Aloft Milwaukee Downtown: 1230 N Drive Martin Luther King Jr Dr
2. Brewhouse Inn & Suites: 1215 N 10th St
3. Courtyard by Marriott Milwaukee Downtown: 300 W Michigan St
4. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Milwaukee: 611 W Wisconsin Ave
5. Drury Plaza Hotel Milwaukee Downtown: 700 Water St.
6. Fairfield Inn: 710 North Drive Martin Luther King Jr Dr.
7. Holiday Inn Express: 525 N Jefferson St
8. Home2Suites: 515 N Jefferson St.
9. Homewood Suites: 500 N Water St.
10. Hyatt Place: 800 W Juneau Ave
11. The Kimpton Journeyman Hotel: 310 E Chicago St.
12. Milwaukee Marriott Downtown: 625 N Milwaukee St
13. The Marc Hotel: 640 N 6th St
14. The Pfister: 424 E Wisconsin Ave
15. Residence Inn by Marriott: 648 N Plankinton
16. Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel: 139 E Kilbourn Ave
17. SpringHill Suites by Marriott: 744 Vel R Phillips Ave
18. Tru by Hilton Milwaukee Downtown: 515 N Jefferson St
19. The Westin Milwaukee: 550 N Van Buren St

Practice Rooms

There is a public practice space at the **Baird Center in N206B/C**

This is a 3,000 sq ft room that any competitor is allowed to access while the Baird Center is open. It will have a practice floor with Marley for dancers to use for practicing and warming up. This is a shared space. Be respectful of others.

Additionally, every hotel contracted within our block has a public practice space. If you are staying at *any* of the hotels in our block, there is a room where you can go to stretch, practice, or even get ready in the morning (ie hair/makeup) at *every hotel property*. Again, these are *shared* spaces. Be respectful of others.

Here is a list of public practice rooms by hotel property:

Aloft: Tactic 4 & 5

Brewhouse Inn & Suites: Mezzanine

Hilton: Wright Ballroom A

Hyatt Regency: Lakeshore C

DoubleTree: Milwaukee & Executive Rooms

Drury Plaza: Riverview & Marquette/Hop Room

Fairfield Inn: Strauss

Homewood Suites: The Meeting Room

Hyatt Place: Meeting Place 1, 2, & 3

Kimpton: Assembly Hall (second floor)

Milwaukee Marriott: Governors

Residence Inn: Marshall Field

Saint Kate: Da 1, Da 2

Springhill Suites: Commerce A

Cambria: Goodland

*If your hotel does not appear on this list, or you have trouble finding the meeting room that has been designated as a public rehearsal space, you can ask the front desk.

Many dance schools have contracted private practice space at the Baird. For those rooms, your dance teachers have been told the designated location.

Happy practicing!

Locations of things you may be looking for over the weekend….

Tanning

Celebrity Skin

Hyatt Regency Hotel in *Lakeshore B* conference room

Hair & Makeup Vendors

Eire Beauty, Camelia Rose, and Celtic Curls

Hyatt Regency Hotel in *Lakeshore A* conference room

Perpetual Trophy Return

Baird Center: room **N207A**. Volunteers will be prepared to accept all perpetual trophies/plaques but be sure to return your trophy polished & damage free! Perpetuals must be returned during the following hours:

Thursday 2pm – 6pm	Friday 12pm – 3pm	Saturday 12pm - 3pm

Mother's Rooms

- Baird Center, located on 2nd floor, North building, next to service elevator, between two bathrooms, on the other side of N205
- Baird Center, located on top floor, North building, Behind escalators, next to bathrooms, on the backside of the rooftop ballrooms

Sensory Room

Baird Center, located on top floor, North building, Behind escalators, next to elevators

Mass

Fr. Ryan G Duns, SJ will be offering mass on Sunday at 5:30pm on STAGE C

Dress Resale Room

If you are looking to buy or sell a used solo costume, there will be an IDTAMA-run consignment shop at the Baird. For $25 you can put up to 2 dresses for sale in the room. Attendees may come to the room to try-on and potentially purchase a dress. Location: N206A at the Baird Center. Hours for the dress room are as follows:

Thursday 3 – 7pm	Friday 10am – 5pm	Saturday 10am – 5pm	Sunday 9am – 12pm

This room has been generously sponsored by *Stitches by mb*

Help Desk

The help desk will be located on the 3rd floor of the Baird Center. It will be in the hallway area of the Exhibit Hall Foyers. This is where you can pick up your pre-ordered program book, purchase a new program for $30 (while supplies last), donate to Hunger Task Force and be entered into an exciting raffle drawing, access the lost and found, call for first aid, and more! The help desk will be staffed during the following hours:

Thursday 2pm – 6pm I Friday 7am – 3pm I Saturday 7am – 3pm I Sunday 7am – 2pm

Patches

Beautifully embroidered patches by NW Designs will be distributed to teachers at their annual meeting on Nov 26th. Please see your instructor to get your patch.

Photographer

Our official Photographer - ShamrockPhoto - will have a portrait studio as well as be onsite to capture live shots during competitions. Pre-registration is currently open until next week.

Northwest Designs

Our official merchandise vendor, NW Designs, will be selling event apparel on site. You can also buy online here.

Target Training

Mindset & Mobility Clinics located on the second floor of the North building in the Baird: N208B

Program Books

Program pickup will begin at 5pm on Thursday, November 26th.

If you pre-ordered a program book, you can pick it up at the help desk (located on the 3rd floor of the Baird Center) any time after 5pm on Thursday.

There were a *very limited number* of additional programs ordered. If you would like to purchase a program for $30, you can do so onsite at the Help desk beginning at 5pm on Thursday, November 26th. Supplies are limited.

A PDF of the program book will be posted on the IDTAMA website AND on QuickFeis at 5pm on Thursday.

FOOD OPTIONS WHILE IN THE BAIRD

Please note that the Baird Center does not allow outside food or beverage!*

There will be a large Food Court area in **Exhibit Hall E on the 3rd floor**. This food court will be available at the following dates/times:

Friday 7am – 8pm I Saturday 7am – 8pm I Sunday 7am – 7pm

The Baird Center's Food Vendors are completely CASHLESS. Please be prepared to pay with a credit card.

This area will offer LOTS of options, such as:

Bagels & croissants
Pancakes
Breakfast sandwiches
Granola bowls
Fresh fruit
Cheeseburgers
Chicken Tenders
Grilled Chicken Sandwiches
Hot dog
Nashville Chicken Sandwich
Bars & Rec Grilled Cheese
Ian's Pizza
Bratwurst
Veggie Burger
French Fries
Cheese Fries
Wisconsin Cheese Curds
Pretzels
Nacho
Candy

Garden Salad
Chicken Chop Salad
Mac & Cheese
Cousin's Subs
Maui Wow Smoothies – a popular hit at the local feisanna!
Baya Bar Acai Bowls – with breakfast options!
Poke bowls
Filipina K-Bowls
Ramen
Walking Tacos
Ian's Pizza
Water & Gatorade
Energy Drinks
Soda
Americanos, Lattes, & Cappuccinos
Domestic Beer
Craft Beer

Bartenders will also be setup outside the Awards Ceremony on the Exhibit Hall Floors in the afternoon/evening on Fri/Sat/Sun.

**Exceptions are made for those with allergies.*

SOME EXTRA FUN ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

Motivation Station

We have a positivity wall where dancers can leave each other encouraging messages or take a bit of courage & luck with them before their performances! Be sure to stop by!
Location: 3rd floor Exhibit Hall Foyers (outside of stages A – D)

Photo Booth

The Booth by LoveStream has a digital photo booth set up on the 4th floor of the Baird Center where dancers and their friends can take fun selfies and have them sent digitally to your cell phone!

Kid's Neon Ceili Party

This is a ticketed event: Eventbrite. The party is from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Hyatt - Regency Ballrooms A/B. It's a fun night with live music, dancing, and friendship! Tickets are $40. Dinner included!

Teen Karaoke Party

This is a ticketed event: Eventbrite. The party is from 8 – 11pm at Amped, 910 W Juneau Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233. It's a fun evening of karaoke and dancing. Tickets are $60. Dinner Included! Please, take note of this important information for the party:

- We are providing a shuttle this year! The shuttle will run continuously between 7:30pm – 11:30pm. Pickup/drop-off location is the Hyatt Regency Hotel.
- Anyone who has purchased a ticket should pick up a wristband at the Info/help desk on the third floor of the Baird Center. Teens will need their wristband to board the shuttle.

No Dance Zone

This is a perfect quiet space to get away from the craziness. Absolutely no listening to Irish dance music, no practicing, nor getting ready (hair/makeup) in this space. It's a lounge area for those who need a break. Located in the MKE Market Lounge on the first floor of the Baird Center (directly inside the North Entrance).

Pre-Awards Show

Each competition day will feature a 30–60-minute pre-award show to keep your family entertained while you wait for that highly anticipated awards presentation! Please keep in mind that families are kindly asked not to save entire rows or sections of chairs for the awards ceremony. Here are some highlights to expect:

- On Friday, on stage C at 4:30pm, there will be a session! All young musicians are welcome to bring their instruments to join in on the fun!
- On Saturday, on stage B at 4pm, DJ Ellen from Target Training will be pumping up the energy!
- On Sunday, on stage C at 5pm, Fr. Ryan Duns will be offering mass. Then Santa will be visiting both awards stages (B & C) with some Christmas music singalongs!

Thanksgiving Dinner Options

Visit Milwaukee has put together great recommendations on local restaurants that have Thanksgiving dinner dine-in and carry-out options: Thanksgiving Meal Guide.

COMPETITION PROTOCOLS

Numbers/Programs

There are no numbers printed in the program. Competitors are still listed in dance order, but the numbers will not be included. There is a box provided for you to fill in the numbers once they are released. The first dancer is notated for each round to allow you to plan your morning accordingly. At 7:15am each morning, the competitor lists with competitor numbers and start numbers will be posted online. You can visit your QuickFeis account to find these updated number lists. *These will only be posted after judges have been sequestered.* After the lists are posted, check online to find your number. *Once you know your number,* then collect your number at the stage where you compete. There will be a table side stage where teachers will assist in handing out numbers. *Please know your number before getting in line. Check the back of the number to ensure the name listed is correct, and that the set and speed listed are correct. IF the set/speed are wrong, please notify the stage monitor at the time of number pick up so that it can be updated prior to the start of the third round.*

Number Check

There will be a number check for solo championship competitions only (round 1 & 2). The check will be after every 30 dancers or at the completion of a small competition. There are no number checks for traditional set competitions nor for team competitions.

Recalls

All recalls will be posted on QuickFeis and the IDTAMA website. No recalls will be read in the halls. (Please note that the traditional set recalls will not be posted until *after* all ceili competitions have concluded to allow those dancers to focus on their team events).
If your solo championship dancer makes a recall and they needed to change their set/speed in the morning, they should double verify that the information has been updated before walking on stage for their set.

Awards

Notes for Friday & Sunday awards:

- The solo championship awards presentation is scheduled for 6pm. These presentations will be presented on stages B & C *at the same time*. The airwalls will remain in place. The running order of award presentations will be published (on social media) closer to awards each evening. The awards will also be streamed on FeisTV.
- Children who are recalled in the solo championship competitions are asked to *please wear soft shoes and your competitor #* to the awards presentation.
- Amy Mae Dolan will be presenting top five awards for various age groups during the Friday evening results presentation!

Notes for Saturday awards:

- Traditional Set awards are scheduled for 2:15pm on stages A, B, & C on Saturday. If your child recalls, they should report in *full costume, dance shoes (hard shoes are fine), and competitor #* for the awards ceremony.
- The team award presentation is scheduled for 5pm. These presentations will be presented on stages B & C at the same time. The airwalls will remain in place. The running order of award presentations will be published (on social media) closer to awards each evening. The awards will also be streamed on FeisTV.
- In the case of team members dancing on multiple teams, it is impossible to avoid a staging conflict. We have made every effort to reduce this overlaps/conflict. However, a dancer may miss one of their awards presentations if both of their team results are presented on the same stage at the same time. If a dancer misses their team result, the extra medal(s) will be given to their teammates to deliver to the missing dancer.

Important note: Saving seats will not be allowed during the pre-awards show or during the awards presentations. Announcements will be made that any guests looking for seats may remove loose items from chairs and take those seats. If you want to "save" a seat – be in it!

There will be an additional podium set up on Stage A on Fri/Sat/Sun, and another podium in the hallway throughout the weekend. These additional podiums are set up so that your dancer can take additional photos throughout the weekend.

FeisTV

FeisTV will be streaming the Mid-America Oireachtas! You can watch all the dancing and results online and friends at home can follow the action. Visit feistv.com to purchase a personal pass. Disclaimer: Consent through entry. By entering and participating, competitors (or their legal guardians) consent to being filmed, photographed, recorded, and broadcast by FeisTV for live streaming, promotional, archival, and related purposes.

Empty Stages

There is to be no practicing on the stages. Please utilize the practice rooms.

RULES

Syllabus

A complete listing of the syllabus event rules can be found here. By participating in the event, you acknowledge and accept these rules.

Makeup Rule

A friendly reminder that competitors in Under 8, Under 9, and Under 10 events are prohibited from wearing makeup or false eyelashes per the Rules of An Coimisiún.

Seating at the Event

The front two rows at all competition stages are reserved for teachers.
Additionally, no seat-saving will be allowed. We kindly ask that you please do not reserve whole rows of chairs by placing your items on chairs. The chairs at the event are meant to be sat in, and anyone found to be saving entire sections of chairs (even before awards ceremonies) will be asked to remove their items from the chairs so that attendees may utilize the available seating. Announcements will be made that any guests looking for seats may remove loose items from chairs and take those seats. If you want to "save" a seat – be in it! Thank you for your attention to this.

No Wristbands required to enter the event

Attendees will have free access to the Baird Center during designated hours.

Costuming & Carriage Aids

Current CLRG rules will be applied and enforced. You can refer to the CLRG Rule Book, which includes a ban on any non-medically prescribed devices.

Mischief

Any person caught damaging property (whether private property or that of a hotel/venue of that of the IDTAMA) will be requested to leave the premises immediately and will not be permitted to attend any remaining events at these Championships. All parties will be billed for damages. Parents/guardians will be fully responsible for the whereabouts and the actions of their children. The IDTAMA will not be held responsible for personal injury, property damage, theft, loss, or any claim.

Filming/Recording

The use of any device that is capable of taking videos will not be permitted during competitions.

Decisions

All decisions made by the MAO 2026 Committee, the IDTAMA executive board, and/or the adjudicators for the event, in accordance with the rules for the event at the competition syllabus, will be final.

Set & Speed Verification

For dancers competing in the solo championship events, your set dance and speed will be printed on the back of your number card. When you collect your number card *in the morning*, please check to ensure accuracy. If the set/speed are listed incorrectly, please notify the teacher who is handing out numbers first thing in the morning so that set dances can be updated before set rounds are competed in the afternoon. If your set needed to be changed and your child does indeed make a recall, they should double verify that the set was updated prior to walking on stage for your third round.

Falls on Stage

Where a dancer is injured and medical attention is necessary, an on-site athletic trainer from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Sports Medicine will assess the injury and provide care as needed.

If in the opinion of the stage steward, having obtained medical advice if necessary, a dancer is unfit to re-dance and if such a dancer insists on his/her right to do so, then the dancer concerned will only be permitted to re-dance on completion of a declaration form exonerating IDTAMA of liability for any consequences. This waiver must be signed by the parent of the dancer (or the dancer him/herself if over 18).

SPONSORS

Thank you to this year's generous sponsors! Your support is truly appreciated:

American Company of Irish Dance

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Sports Medicine Department

Bill Butke – Set the Stage

Stitches by MB

Target Training

Shamrock Photo USA

Wisconsin Winter Feis

Heidi Bird Design

O'Hara Irish Dance Apparel

Grounded RD

Live Nation (Riverdance in Chicago)

MRG Photography

LPL Financial

Trinity Irish Dance Company

Camp Rince Ceol

FeistheApp

FUNDRAISER: Irish Dancing with a Purpose

This holiday season, 15.4% of Milwaukee's population will experience food insecurity. At IDTAMA, we are grateful for the gifts that Irish dance has brought to the children in our lives, and we are hoping to give back to kids and families less fortunate. Please consider giving back to the local community to help enrich the lives of kids in Milwaukee and the surrounding areas.

All collections will happen at the Info/Help Desk on the 3rd floor in the Exhibit Hall Foyer.

Hunger Task Force Food Drive

Hunger Task Force is Milwaukee's only Free & Local food bank and Wisconsin's anti-hunger leader. Raise funds and food for families in need! We will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations for anyone who wishes to contribute.

Anyone who donates two non-perishable food items, will receive a raffle ticket for our exciting drawing!!

We have multiple exciting prize packages donated by Irish Seams, Gibson's Irish Imports, Rutherford Products, and Celtic Klass Designs!

VENDORS

We are excited to offer an array of different vendors, and we hope you will support them throughout the weekend. The vendors will be located in the hallway/foyer areas of both the 3rd and 4th floor at the Baird Center. Vendors will be open for business at the following times:

Thursday 5pm – 9pm I Friday 7am – awards I Saturday 7am – awards I Sunday 7am – 2pm*

Physical Training Vendors

Target Training

Hair & Makeup (in the Hyatt)

Eire Beauty

Camelia Rose

Celtic Curls

Dance Shoes & Dance Accessories

Gibson's Irish Imports

Irish Seams

Rutherford Products

Fab & Punk

Paddy Rose Boutique

Costume Designers

Elevation Designs

Celtic Klass Designs

Eire Designs

*Costume gallery located on the 4th floor!

Photography

ShamrockPhoto USA

Tanning (in the Hyatt Regency)

Celebrity Skin

Official Merchandise & Apparel

Northwest Designs

Other

FeisTV

Feis the App

Choreograph your Confidence (Amy Mae)

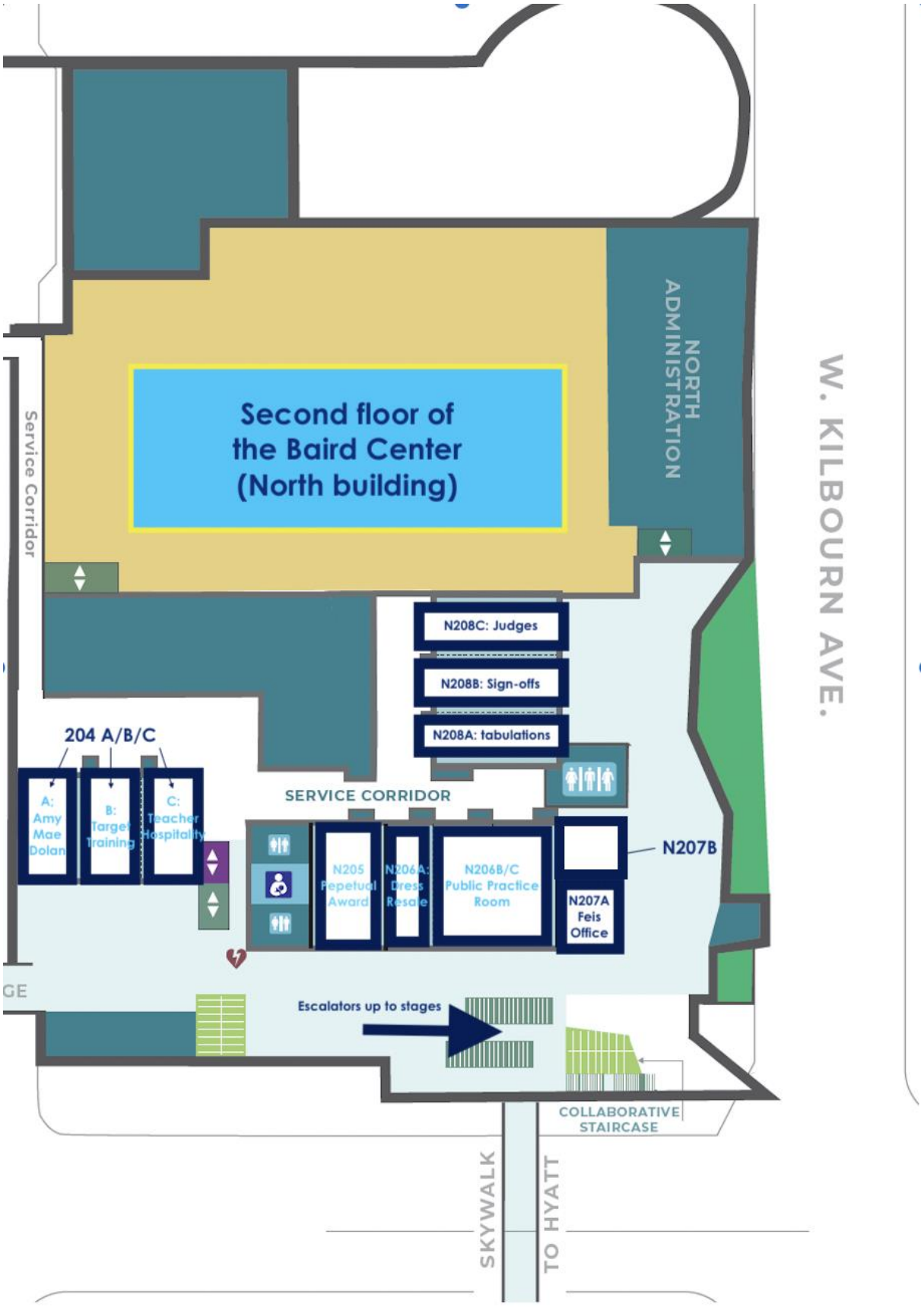
* Some vendors may choose to stay open later, but they may begin breaking down at 2pm

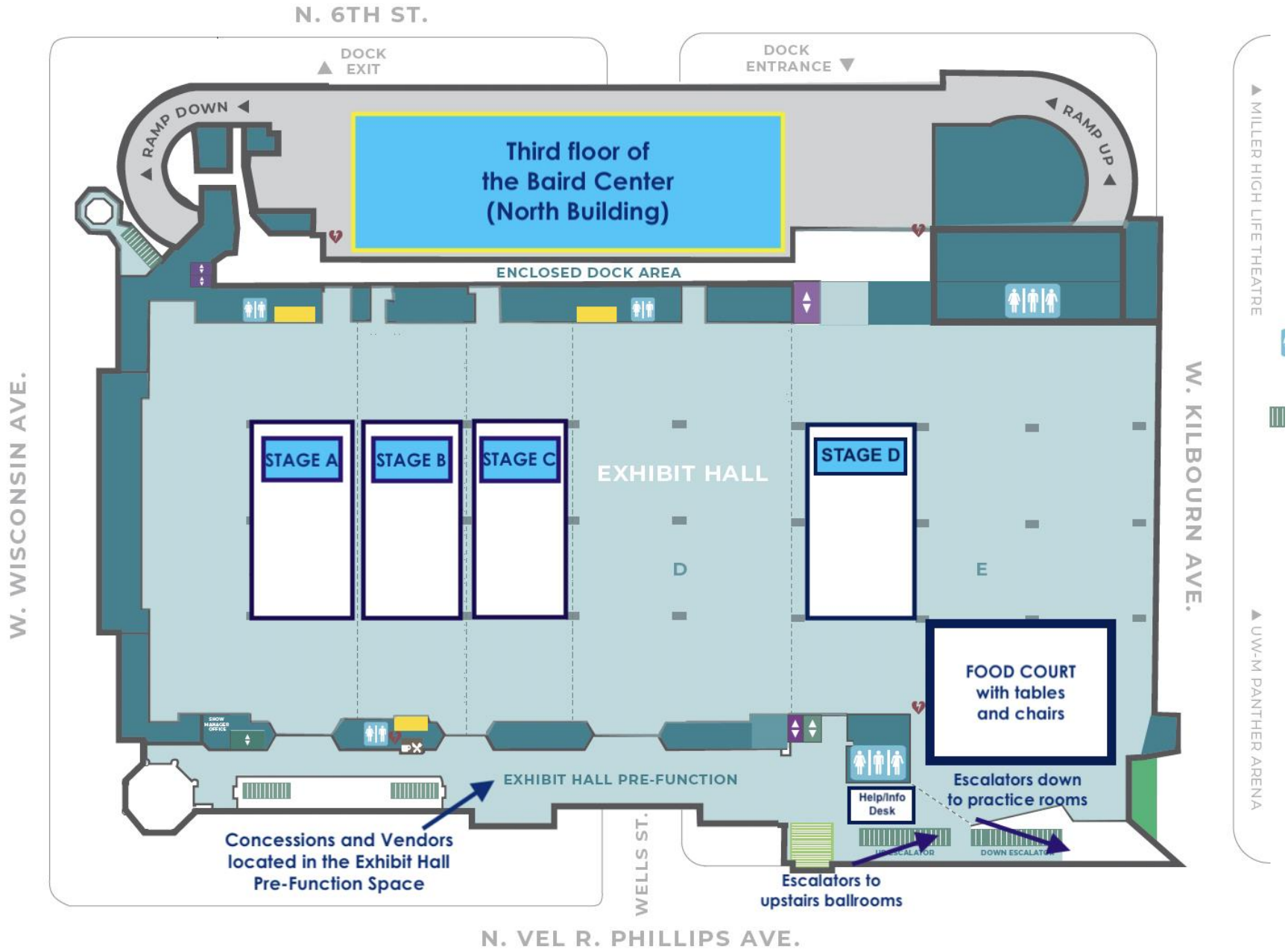
Volunteer Opportunities

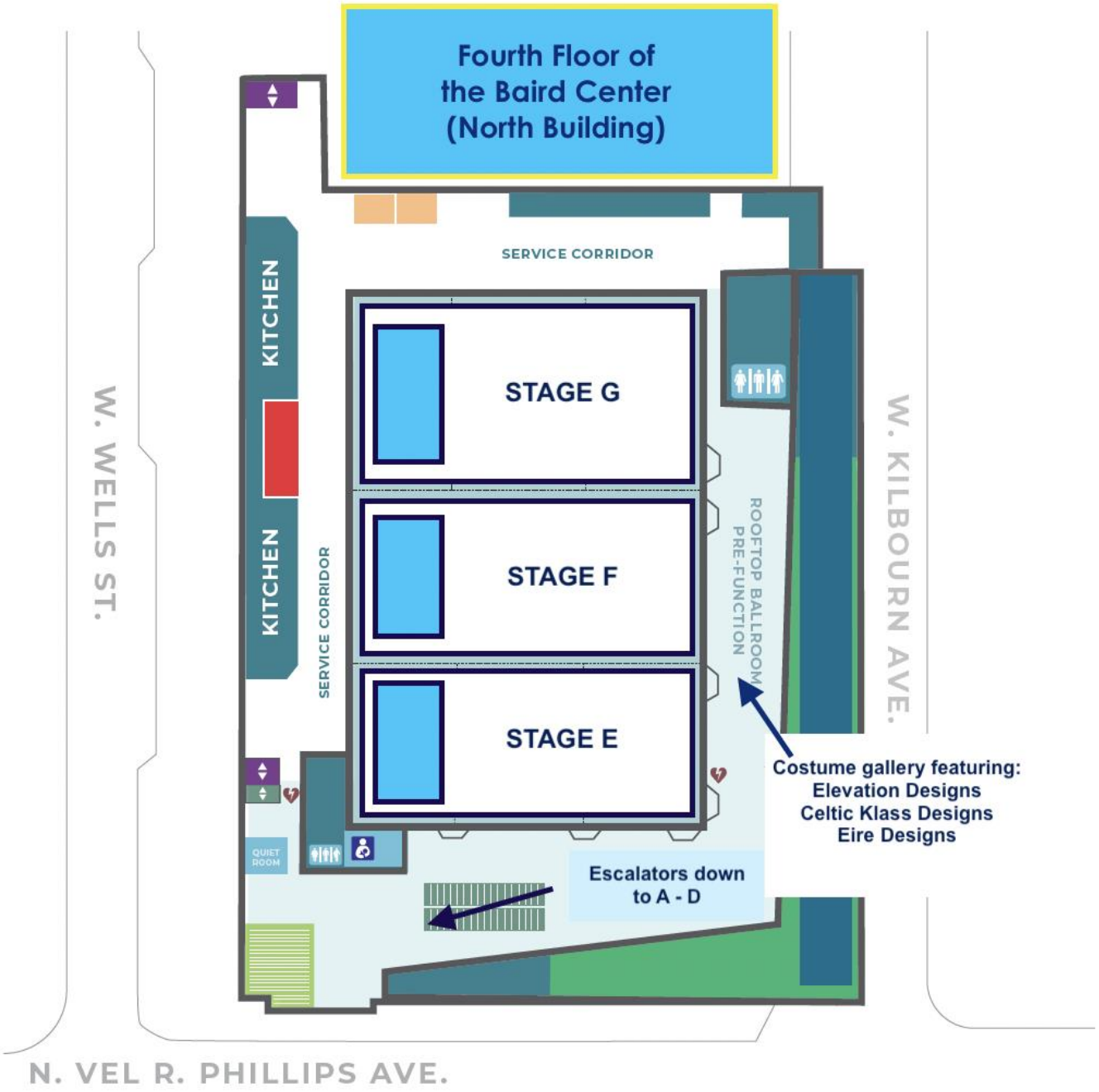
The stage monitoring and awards presentations are run entirely by teachers in the region, and we are very grateful to their expertise and support.

There are other areas at the facility that could use some helping hands. These include (but are not limited to) the costume resale room, motivation station, stage building and takedown, and tabulations. If you are looking for an opportunity to assist, *please* consider signing up: Volunteer Sign-up.

VENUE LAYOUT




N. 6TH ST.
DOCK EXIT
DOCK ENTRANCE
RAMP DOWN
RAMP UP
Third floor of the Baird Center (North Building)
ENCLOSED DOCK AREA
W. WISCONSIN AVE.
W. KILBOURN AVE.
MILLER HIGH LIFE THEATRE
UW-M PANTHER ARENA
STAGE A
STAGE B
STAGE C
EXHIBIT HALL
STAGE D
D
E
FOOD COURT with tables and chairs
EXHIBIT HALL PRE-FUNCTION
Help/Info Desk
Escalators down to practice rooms
Concessions and Vendors located in the Exhibit Hall Pre-Function Space
WELLS ST.
Escalators to upstairs ballrooms
N. VEL R. PHILLIPS AVE.


Fourth Floor of
the Baird Center
(North Building)
SERVICE CORRIDOR
KITCHEN
KITCHEN
STAGE G
STAGE F
STAGE E
SERVICE CORRIDOR
ROOFTOP BALLROOM
PRE-FUNCTION
QUIET
ROOM
Escalators down
to A - D
Costume gallery featuring:
Elevation Designs
Celtic Klass Designs
Eire Designs
W. WELLS ST.
W. KILBOURN AVE.
N. VEL R. PHILLIPS AVE.

Baird PARKING

