



Saturday, September 26, 2020 – EcoTarium, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We are thrilled to have our community together in person during this time. Please note that the Governor has issued a “Safer At Home” advisory and we ask that you please stay home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19. This will help protect you, our other guests, our staff, and our animals.

To help ensure the safety of all, A Night Near the Museum will look a little different this fall. Here’s what you can expect:

Where will the event take place?

- The entirety of the event will take place on the EcoTarium grounds under a tent in our large lower parking lot.

How will social distancing be observed?

- Tables will be positioned to maintain at least a 6-foot distance from all other tables or any high foot traffic areas.
- The size of a party seated at a table will not exceed 6 people. Tables for 2 or 4 people will also be available. When you purchase your tickets, you will choose your preferred table size and list all individuals with whom you would like to share a table.
- Unless seated together, all guests must remain at least 6 feet apart.
- There will be no cocktail hour or other opportunities for mingling in a large group.
- There will be no line to check out or pick up items at the end of the night. (See more details about the auction below.)

What about masks?

- Guests are asked to wear face coverings to the event, but may remove them while seated at their table. If guests leave their table, we ask that masks be worn.
- EcoTarium and Struck Catering staff are required to wear protective equipment, including masks.

Will there be a way to wash my hands?

- Restrooms will be open for guests.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers will also be available at the entrance to the event and at your table.

Will there still be fun, hands-on things to do and wildlife animals to see?

- Yes! Every table will have several hands-on activities to do at your table upon your arrival, with the assistance of an EcoTarium educator on stage.
- Animal special guests will make an appearance.

Will there still be a Cocktail Hour?

- No. To ensure everyone's safety, we ask that when you arrive, you go straight to your table and engage with the activities there.
- Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 pm, so please arrive on time.

Will there still be a Silent and Live Auction?

- Yes!
- The Silent Auction will be conducted entirely through the online platform. Guests will use their phones to view items and place bids.
- The Live Auction will also be conducted through the online platform, but with the assistance of our auctioneer.
- Guests attending the event from home will also be able to participate in the auctions. (See more about attending from home below.)
- All auction items will be able to be viewed and bid upon one week early—beginning Saturday September 19.

Can I still participate if I do not want to attend the event in person?

- YES! You may purchase a virtual ticket which includes a pick-up meal from Struck Catering, ingredients (minus the alcohol) to make the event's signature cocktail, an activity box (containing the same activities on the tables at the event), access to a livestream of the event, and participation in the live and silent auctions through the online platform.
- The Silent Auction will be open to all, regardless of ticket purchase.

What if I don't have a smartphone or don't want to bid online?

- Remote bidding must be done through the online platform.
- If you are there in person, and would like assistance, an EcoTarium staff member will be available to help. If you know you would like additional bidding assistance from staff, simply call 508.929.2716, or email erose@ecotarium.org in advance of the event, or let a staff member know upon your arrival the night of the event. We are happy to assist you.

If I win an item, how do I check out and get my item?

- There will be NO in-person check-out or item pick-up at the event.
- Check-out may be done through the platform, using a credit card, straight from your phone.
- If you prefer to pay by check, you may do so at some point in the next week.
- Items will be mailed to the winner or dropped off at their home by EcoTarium staff in the week following the event.

Can I change my in-person ticket to a virtual ticket if I change my mind?

- Yes. If you change your mind about attending in person, or if you begin to feel ill, please let us know and we will adjust your ticket.
- Please change your ticket and stay at home if you have been ill or have any of the COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, headache, sore throat, coughing, etc.

Could any of this change between now and September 26?

- In the event the public health situation in Massachusetts worsens and the event may not proceed in-person, all tickets will be converted to virtual tickets and the event will occur entirely virtually.
- This decision will be made by September 12.
- Information on this page will be updated as the situation evolves.