

May 2019



Dear Founders' Gala Attendee,

We are very excited about our upcoming Founders' Gala – *Spring Into Action* - on May 18th at the McGlohon Theater in Charlotte, NC.

Below you will find the overall weekend agenda. In the following pages, you will find information about each Gala event, registration, parking, etc. If you have additional questions, please contact us at 919-314-5540 or tonyagillham@inclusionproject.org by Wednesday, May 15th.

We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,



Tonya Gillham
Director of Development and Marketing

Agenda
Friday, May 17th

4:00 - 6:00pm	Registration	Omni Foyer
6:30pm Pub	Gala Official Pre-Party (<i>separate ticket needed</i>)	Fitzgerald's Irish

Saturday, May 18th

9:00am	Registration	Omni Foyer
10:00am	Founders' Brunch	Omni Birch/Willow Ballrooms
1:00pm	Registration and Raffle sales	Omni Foyer
2:00-4:00pm	Playdate with NIP	Omni Birch/Willow Ballrooms
7:00pm	Registration	Spirit Square Atrium
8:00pm	Founders' Gala (Program Begins)	McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square

Sunday May 19th

8:30am	Platinum Coffee & Pastries	Omni Popular/Magnolia Room
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Important Event Information

Registration

Each attendee will receive their registration packet when they check in at the Founders' Gala registration table. Your registration packet will include your theater ticket for the Gala and your Bid Card for the SEND A KID TO CAMP Auction. For Gold and Platinum guests, an event listing will be included. Registration will be available multiple times throughout the weekend. Please consider stopping by as early as you can in order to avoid lines right before the main event. *Please bring your registration email confirmation as back-up verification. If there is a name change with your party, please email tonyagillham@inclusionproject.org ASAP.*

Official Pre-Party - Friday, May 17th @ 6:30pm - Fitzgerald's Irish Pub

Tickets to the pre-party are not included in your Gala registration and must be purchased separately. Find more [information here...](#)

The Founders' Gala Committee is excited to host the Official Gala Pre-Party! On Friday night, May 17th, meet everyone at [Fitzgerald's Irish Pub](#), a block from the Omni, and reconnect with friends old and new, unwind from your travels, sample an authentic North Carolina BBQ buffet, and enjoy a cocktail or two. **Plus, NIP co-founders Clay Aiken and Diane Bubel will stop by and welcome everyone!**

The party starts at 6:30 PM. Fitzgerald's is a short walk from the Omni hotel, and offers a cozy pub feel, as well as an inviting outdoor patio for all to enjoy. All attendees are welcome to stay as long as they wish to enjoy the great ambiance and companionship.

Parking Information for Fitzgerald's: For those that may prefer to drive rather than walk, there is free parking in the Wake Forest Parking Garage after 6pm. Guests must bring their parking ticket in with them to get validated by the bartender. The garage can be entered from 5th Street immediately after you pass Fitzgerald's on the left. The entrance is just before the light rail tracks. The garage can also be entered from 6th Street. Entrance is directly across from Brixx Pizza.

Founders' Brunch – Saturday, May 18th @ 10am – Omni Birch/Willow Ballroom

For our Gold and Platinum attendees, the Founders' Brunch will be held in the Birch/Willow Ballroom. After our speaker Phil Liebson, from the Bender JCC of Gtr Washington, discusses how NIP's new standards and accreditation will benefit his program and others around the country, our co-founders will take the stage for a Q&A. **Please come prepared with questions for our Co-Founders.** A Brunch Buffet will be served. Your name tags and table assignments will be included with your registration packets to be picked up once you arrive at the Omni. **Please bring your name tag and table assignment card with you to the Brunch.**

Brunch Photos: Each Gold and Platinum guest will have a chance to take a photo with our co-founders at the Brunch. The photos will be provided digitally and will be available a few weeks after the Founders' Gala. This will allow professional editing of pictures to ensure best results and eliminate physical handling and travel issues with a hard copy. **Just a reminder: please respect others regarding use of images. Only download/share your own.** All attendees will be provided website access and password information through email following the Gala, allowing you to retrieve your photo. **If anyone does not have electronic means to receive their photo, please advise the Project after the Gala and we will be happy to make other arrangements.**



Playdate with NIP - Saturday, May 18th @ 2:00pm - Omni Ballrooms

Join us on Saturday afternoon and learn about the power behind the Science of Friendship from our Director of Programs Aron Hall! The National Inclusion Project has found that when people are connected, everything gets better. The afternoon will be filled with games, getting-to-know-you activities, and helpful tips that we give all of our partners as well as some inspiration so you can *Spring into Action* in your own communities. We ask that you try to stay in the room for the duration of the training. Starting at 1pm, before the playdate begins, you will have time to peruse the raffle items and purchase tickets; likewise during the mid-playdate break. The Green Raffle winners will be chosen immediately following the playdate at 4:00pm.

Raffles

Blue Raffle: Like previous years, attendees can choose between 3 items to enter with their blue raffle tickets, including (2) Gold **Founders' Gala tickets** for 2020, an invitation from our co-founders Clay Aiken and Diane Bubel to attend the **Platinum Pastries and Coffee** at the Omni Sunday morning at 8:30am and a **picture with our co-founders** on stage after the Gala. We will have blue raffle tickets on sale at the Official Pre-party, Founders' Brunch, during the Playdate and at the Spirit Square Atrium before the Gala. **Blue tickets will be 1 for \$20 or 6 for \$100.** The winners will be drawn on stage at the Gala Saturday night.

Green Raffle: Similar to the Basket Benefit from 2 years ago, attendees will have multiple chances to win one or more items before, during and after our Saturday afternoon Playdate with NIP. The 20+ items, ranging from designer bags, electronic accessories, gifts cards, an Apple Watch and kindle, will each have a separate receptacle for tickets. Green tickets will be on sale Saturday afternoon before the Playdate from 1-2pm outside the ballrooms, with a final call for ticket sales announced during a break in the Playdate. **Green tickets will be 1 for \$5 each or 5 for \$20.** Winners will be drawn at the end of the Playdate at 4pm - one for each item. **Must be present to win.**

Inspiration Rocks

On Saturday, attendees will have the opportunity to *Spring into Action* and share the message of Inclusion with Inspiration Rocks! Throughout the day, be on the lookout for tables with small rocks and markers scattered around. Please take a moment to write an inspirational inclusion message (Ex. Inclusion ROCKS. You Belong. Spring into Action.) on one rock for your hometown and one rock to leave in downtown Charlotte. It would also be great if you add our website to the back - inclusionproject.org - so when folks find them throughout the city, they learn more about us. Leave it for someone in Charlotte on your way to dinner, the Gala or on your way home on Sunday at the airport to brighten someone's day.

Founders' Gala – Saturday, May 18th @ 8pm - McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square

The main event will take place Saturday night at the McGlohon Theater. Seating will be assigned, so attendees do not need to worry about arriving early to get a good spot. Your Founders' Gala theater ticket with your seat assignment printed on it will be in your registration packet. **You MUST bring this ticket with you to the Gala. Theater staff will be stationed at the doors to help guests find their seats.**



SEND A KID TO CAMP Auction

The SEND A KID TO CAMP Auction gives all attendees the opportunity to ‘bid’ to send a kid to camp with a donation (\$300 sends 1 kid to camp). After the donation auction, donors can pay online using their smartphones at www.inclusionproject.org/sendakid, or they can head to the lobby for check-out after the Gala ends. For a speedier checkout, checks are encouraged.

Platinum Pastries and Coffee - Sunday, May 19th @ 8:30am - Omni Charlotte Hotel

Platinum attendees are invited to enjoy some tasty treats and a caffeine pick-me-up after the previous evening's festivities with our co-founders, staff and board members. They will find more details in their registration packets at the event.

Bid Cards

Everyone will receive their own Bid Card assigned to their name at registration. You must have a bid card to bid in the SEND A KID TO CAMP auction. If your Bid Card is forgotten, the Registration desk will have extras you can pick up.

Cameras and Cell Phones

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited during the Gala program. Photography only is allowed at the Founders’ Brunch. This is subject to change at the event.

Contact Information

McGlohon Theater	Omni Charlotte Hotel	Fitzgerald’s Irish Pub
345 North College St.	132 East Trade St	201 E 5th St
Charlotte, NC 28202	Charlotte, NC 28202	Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 348-5740	(704) 377-0400	(704) 900-8088

Directions to hotel

[Charlotte Douglas International Airport - CLT](#) Airport Phone: 1 704 359 4913 15 MINUTES/ 8 MILES

Depart the terminal on Airport Loop Road and follow the signs to the exit. Turn right onto Old Dowd Road. Take the second left onto Boyer Street. Take the first right onto Wilkinson Boulevard (US-74E). Continue onto I-277 North. Take Exit 1E onto College Street toward the Time Warner Cable Arena. Turn left onto Trade Street. The hotel is located on the left.

This hotel does not provide a free shuttle service.

- **Taxi Service:** Approximately \$20 – \$25 each way
- **Car Service:** Call (704) 493-3671 for pricing
- **Access Transportation**, our on-site transportation provider, offers town cars, sedans and limos for all your transportation needs
- **Charlotte Transportation Center:** Located just 2 blocks from hotel



- **AMTRAK station:** Located just 1.5 miles from the hotel

Directions to the theater

Follow directions to the hotel and right after you pass the hotel on the left, take a right onto Tryon Street. Go two and a half blocks and the McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square will be on your right. To park, continue past the theater and take a right onto 7th Street. You will see the 7th Street Station parking garage about 1.5 blocks down on your right. A map with the McGlohon Theater and parking garage is [here](#).

Dress

The Founders' Gala is slightly more relaxed in format this year, so feel free to wear what is comfortable from smart casual (no sweatpants please!) to dressy attire. Those attending the Brunch will want to dress for photos with the Co-Founders.

Hotel Self-Service Parking

Self-service, city-owned garages are available in the surrounding area

Hotel Valet Parking (Prices are subject to change)

- Overnight valet parking rates:
 - \$33.00 per night (inclusive of tax) in-and-out privileges
- Daily valet parking rates:
 - \$15.00 for 0 – 4 hours (inclusive of tax) no in-and-out privileges
 - \$20.00 for 4 – 8 hours (inclusive of tax) no in-and-out privileges
 - More than 8 hours will be charged overnight rate
- Event valet parking rates:
 - \$15.00 for 0 – 4 hours (inclusive of tax) no in-and-out privileges
 - \$20.00 for 4 – 8 hours (inclusive of tax) no in-and-out privileges
- Due to space restriction, no oversized vehicles or trailers
- Self-service, city-owned garages are available in the surrounding area

Parking at the theater

A special preferred parking rate of only \$5* is available for our patrons in the **7th Street Station Parking Garage**. Enter on 6th or 7th Streets between N. College and N. Brevard Streets. You **MUST** follow instructions on how to receive the special rate. Learn more about purchasing your parking pass ahead of time and about how to receive this rate on the Theater [website](#).

Walking from the Omni to the theater

The theater at Spirit Square is a short 2.5 block walk from the Omni Hotel down Tryon St. It is right in the center of downtown Charlotte with many restaurants and shops for you to visit while in town.



20% off of food purchase May 16-19

Must present this coupon. Alcohol not included.

201 E 5th St, Charlotte, NC 28202