Wednesday, July 17th Social Options for Optimal Networking!

You have many options for activities on Wednesday night, the opening night of our summer conference! [Buffalo](https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/) has MANY great things to offer!!

**Niagara Falls Bus Trip** (must reach minimum participant guarantee by June 2nd)

Join your United Way colleagues on an exciting trip to Niagara Falls. Looking for a fun way to "explore the roar?" The Niagara Falls Maid of the Mist tour takes visitors on an excursion into the basin of Niagara Falls State Park’s Horseshoe Falls. The Maid of the Mist boat tour in Niagara Falls, NY has been described by generations of visitors as one of the highlights of their trip. You will also enjoy dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe and explore the state park and the majestic Falls. Trip includes bus ride, admission to Maid of the Mist, time for exploration, dinner and drinks (non-alcohol) at Hard Rock Café. Cost is $75pp- However- United Way of Buffalo and Erie County will cover 50% of the cost for the first 30 people registered!! Use this [Eventbrite link](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/niagara-falls-tour-dinner-tickets-62010002587) to register and pay for the trip!

**Visit Local Breweries**

You can also visit one of the many local breweries found in Buffalo. Flying Bison Brewing Company is a packaging brewery located in the city of Buffalo, and the first stand-alone brewery to operate in the city proper since Iroquois Brewing closed its doors in 1972. Enjoy a few beers after a long day of learning and get a tour of the facility to see how beer is made. Tour will be lead by Erin Guiterrez-Matt, CEO of United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area (whose family runs the F.X. Matt Brewery based in Utica, NY; the parent company of Flying Bison).

**Explore Downtown**

Want to explore on your own? Downtown Buffalo has undergone a radical transformation in recent years. On the north end, Ellicott Street has seen the development of a host of new restaurants, breweries and distilleries. On the south end, new hotels, eateries, shops and entertainment options are popping up along Buffalo’s waterfront at Canalside. All this excitement is against the backdrop of downtown’s historical landmarks and architectural wonders. The positive energy is infectious. When you’re here, you don’t just bear witness to Buffalo’s Renaissance. You take part in it. The Embassy Suites is in the heart of downtown Buffalo and you won’t have to walk far to find fun!

**Visit Canalside**

We recommend you jump on the subway located only a few blocks away from the hotel and head down to Canalside. Canalside is at the heart of downtown Buffalo's waterfront revitalization. Located at the 1825 terminus of the Erie Canal, the site's storied history is just as exciting as its future! Canalside hosts hundreds of events throughout the year, many of which are free or low cost to the public. You'll find concerts and festivals, summer fitness classes, children's programming, and history tours. There are also many restaurants and bars you can visit to make your exploring a night out!