

Hidden Curriculum

AEJMC Commission on Graduate Education

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   @CSGEAEJMC

Elevating Student Voices



The Tree of Knowledge mural on 1301 Market Street, the splash pad at Dilworth Park on 15th Street and the Government of the People statue at Municipal Services Building Plaza in Philadelphia. (July 2017, Photos by Kris Vera-Phillips)

Preparing for the Academic Market: Recent Graduates' Insights on AEJMC Job Hub

By Elizabeth Cox
CSGE Communications Committee

In addition to preparing for research presentations, we are preparing to enter the job market this fall. AEJMC offers the annual Job Hub, allowing candidates to network with schools planning to hire for the next year. I contacted three recent or upcoming graduates for advice on the AEJMC Job Hub and the academic job market.

Introductions

[Shannon Scovel, Ph.D.](#): I am an assistant professor in the School of Journalism & Media at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville primarily teaching in the sports

communication concentration. My research area sits at the intersection of sports, media and gender, and my doctoral dissertation at the University of Maryland analyzed the self-representation of collegiate women athletes on TikTok, Instagram and Twitter/X during the first year of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)'s name, image and likeness (NIL) policy. I participated in the job market in the fall of 2022 and graduated from Maryland with my PhD in Journalism Studies in the spring of 2023.

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Reimagine Your Classroom, Network with Peers at CSGE Graduate Teaching Showcase

By Morgan Badurak,
CSGE Teaching Committee

Prepare to update your lesson plans with innovative approaches at this year's Annual AEJMC Conference in Philadelphia, where the Commission on Graduate Education (CSGE) is introducing a new, exciting addition to its lineup: the Graduate Teaching Showcase. This inaugural event celebrates the creativity and impact of graduate student approaches to pedagogy, promising fresh insights and interactive sessions to redefine classroom learning.

Scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 8, from 2:30 to 6 p.m. (EST), the Graduate Teaching Showcase will unfold in two parts. During the first session, selected scholars will engage audiences with brief demonstrations of their teaching methods. The event transitions into a poster session with the Standing Committee on Teaching and the Graduate Research Showcase student papers. Here, scholars can answer peer questions, continue demonstrating their work, share insights from their lessons, and further showcase their materials.

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Chair’s Note: Summertime and Summer Time

By Dr. Patrick R. Johnson, CSGE Chair

As summer unfolds, many of us are caught in the delicate balance between rest and readiness. It's a season that grants us the gift of time—an invaluable resource for reflection, rejuvenation, and forward thinking. Graduate students often wear multiple hats, juggling research, teaching, and personal lives. This period offers a unique opportunity to focus on self-care while laying the groundwork for a successful fall semester.

Prioritize Self-Care

First and foremost, let’s acknowledge the importance of taking care of ourselves. Amidst the hustle of deadlines and academic responsibilities, it’s easy to overlook our well-being. Use this summer to recharge. Engage in activities that bring you joy, spend time with loved ones, and don't hesitate to disconnect from work when needed. Remember, a well-rested mind is far more productive and creative. Self-care is not just a break from work; it affirms your worth and well-being. Believe in the importance of your mental and physical health. By prioritizing self-care, you build resilience and a stronger foundation to face the challenges ahead.

Consider integrating mindfulness practices such as meditation or yoga into your daily routine. These practices can enhance your mental clarity and emotional stability, allowing you to approach your work with a fresh perspective. Treat yourself kindly, acknowledging the efforts you have made and the progress you have achieved. Celebrate small victories, and remind yourself that taking care of your well-being is a crucial part of your academic journey. And if you have a chance, step away and take a vacation.

This can be difficult with the likely lack of pay graduate students have, but sometimes there are cheap and easy ways to get away to center yourself and give yourself the grace to breathe. I just spent 2.5 weeks in Iceland, Lisbon, and the Azores, and it was so necessary, calming, and relaxing.

Plan, Don’t Execute

While it's crucial to rest, using this open time strategically is equally important. Planning for the fall semester can significantly ease the transition back into the academic year.

Start outlining your syllabi (need help? Register for the AEJMC Teaching Academy pre-con), brainstorming research ideas, or organizing your schedule. Focus on the conceptual stage rather than jumping into execution.

This way, you can return in the fall with a clear vision and a structured plan, ready to dive into your projects with renewed energy.

Planning is an act of self-belief. It’s about trusting your ability to create a roadmap for success. By dedicating time to plan, you set yourself up for future achievements. This proactive approach reduces future stress and reinforces your confidence in managing your academic responsibilities. Remember, thoughtful preparation now can transform potential obstacles into manageable tasks later.

Visualize your goals and break them into smaller, achievable steps. This methodical approach can prevent feeling overwhelmed and keep you motivated. Additionally, seek feedback from peers or mentors during this planning phase. Their insights can provide valuable perspectives and enhance your strategies, building confidence in your plans.

Annual Conference: A Time to Connect and Grow

Looking ahead, our annual conference from August 7-11 is fast approaching. This event is more than just a gathering; it’s a chance to connect, learn, and grow within our community. I strongly encourage you to attend, say hello to fellow members, and support graduate student sessions – the Graduate Research Showcase, the Graduate Teaching Showcase, and the top paper session being great options. These sessions testify to our collective efforts and achievements; your presence can make a significant difference. All of our programs for this conference are included in the sidebar.

The conference is also an opportunity to build belief in yourself and your work. Engaging with peers and mentors, presenting your research, and participating in discussions can validate your efforts and inspire new ideas. Your contributions are valuable, and your presence at the conference reinforces the strength and diversity of our community.

Don’t forget to register for the luncheon (\$5), where we can come together in a more relaxed setting to share experiences and build lasting connections. It's an excellent opportunity to network and gain insights from peers and mentors alike. Your involvement in these events supports others and enriches your professional development. Embrace these interactions to expand your knowledge, enhance your confidence, and solidify your place within our academic community.

About the Author

Dr. Patrick R. Johnson is an assistant professor of journalism at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His work focuses on the intersection of news literacy, journalism practice and education, and ethics. Patrick also spends much of his time exploring the knowledge production and representation of LGBTQ people in journalism and mass communication.



Conference
August 8-11
Philadelphia, PA
#AEJMC24

CSGE Programs: August 2024

We are thrilled to introduce this year's lineup of conference programs designed to enrich, support, and connect our members.

Teaching Academy Pre-Conference, Wednesday, August 7: Focused on course development and educational theories, this session is an invaluable resource for all AEJMC members, especially graduate students looking to enhance their teaching skills.

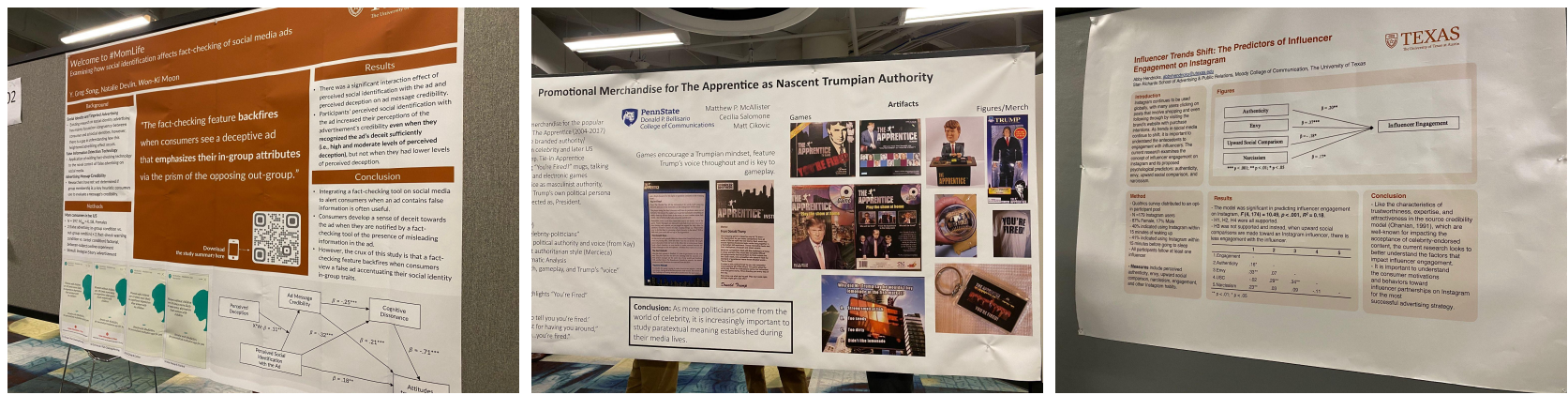
Graduate Student Luncheon Thursday, August 8: When you register for the conference, you pay \$5 to enjoy a catered lunch where you can meet and connect with fellow graduate students. With over 80 attendees last year, we are excited to welcome even more of you this year!

Graduate Teaching Showcase Thursday, August 8: From 2:30 to 6:00 PM, explore innovative teaching strategies at our new teaching showcase and delve into cutting-edge research at our research showcase. These back-to-back sessions are perfect opportunities to see the impressive work your colleagues are doing.

Graduate Student Lounge: We are delighted to bring back the Graduate Student Lounge, a welcoming space for relaxation and networking. Open throughout the conference, the lounge will offer food during lunch times and aims to remain an accessible and comfortable hub for all graduate students, with additional support from other DIGs.

The Traveling Closet: The Traveling Closet returns this year, providing gently used professional clothing for anyone in need. Located in the Graduate Student Lounge, this initiative helps ensure all our graduate students have access to professional attire without the need to trade or return items. If you need it, take it – it's yours!

Child Care: Understanding the challenges faced by our graduate student members who are parents, we are pleased to announce the introduction of childcare opportunities at this year's conference. AEJMC is committed to making the conference experience accessible and inclusive for all members.



Poster sessions at 2022 AEJMC Conference in Detroit. (August 2022, Photos by Kris Vera-Phillips)

From Paper to Poster: Tips for #AEJMC24 Success

Being invited to present a research paper at a poster session, such as the 2024 AEJMC Conference in Philadelphia, is a significant accomplishment. We wanted to revisit our tips for an engaging and professional poster presentation for this newsletter.

First, carefully review the size guidelines for the poster. The poster must fit well on the display board. Aiming for about 75% of the board's area ensures a good visual impact without unnecessary cost.

When choosing a design tool, stick with what's comfortable, such as PowerPoint or Canva. The tool used isn't as important as the final product, so sticking with familiar software is best to avoid unnecessary stress.

When designing the poster, avoid overcrowding it with text. Use a bold title, a concise abstract, key findings, and some visuals. Incorporating white space will make the poster more readable and visually appealing.

When designing the poster, avoid overcrowding it with text. Use a bold title, a concise abstract, key findings, and some visuals. Incorporating white space will make the poster more readable and visually appealing.

Include the presenter's name and institutional affiliation on the poster. This ensures that people know who created it even if the presenter isn't standing by. Including contact information, such as an email or social media handles, is also helpful for networking.

A good poster serves three purposes: attracting people to discuss the work, providing enough information to support those discussions, and potentially becoming a display piece for an office.

Prepare to exchange contact information with fellow attendees. Traditional business cards, paper, pen, or digital options like business card apps are all useful. Many presenters now include QR codes on their posters that link to their professional websites or CVs.

If flying to the conference, consider how to transport the poster. Options include foldable posters, lightweight cloth posters, or rolled posters. Investing in a carrying tube with a strap can be helpful, though it might be cumbersome for overhead bins. The tube is reusable for future conferences, and flight attendants can often store it at the front of the plane.

Finally, explore different printing options. University printing centers might be convenient but not always the cheapest. Office supply stores and online services like PosterNerd offer competitive pricing. Planning and avoiding last-minute printing is important to save money and reduce stress.

Presenters can create standout posters by following these tips and making the most of their conference experience. Good luck!

Reimagine Your Classroom

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

CSGE accepted diverse participants covering topics such as media literacy, health communication in digital contexts, and intersectionality in communication. Selected participants will present compelling pedagogical methods and interactive classroom activities to address critical topics in mass communication education. The showcase will feature activities such as man-on-the-street style interviews to illustrate the practical applications and real-world relevance of legal concepts taught in media law courses and improv comedy to foster critical communication skills to encourage active student participation and emphasize two-way communication in the classroom.

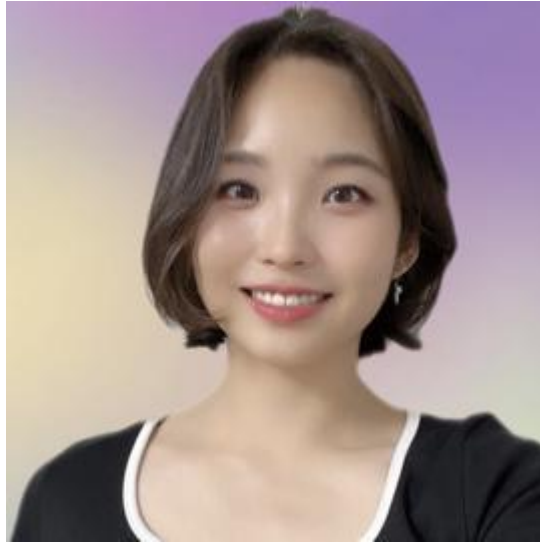
The Graduate Teaching Showcase aims to cultivate future educational practices and provide scholars with a forum to discuss innovative pedagogy and student engagement. Whether you're an educator seeking fresh ideas, a researcher exploring novel teaching methodologies, or a job seeker aiming to showcase your skills, this showcase is a valuable chance to learn from your peers and share your teaching experiences. Don't miss this chance to participate in this exciting new opportunity at AEJMC this year!

About the Author

Morgan Badurak is a second-year media and public affairs doctoral student in the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University. She holds an M.A. in Advertising and Public Relations from the University of Alabama and double-majored in Mass Communication (B.A.) and Music Industry Studies (B.S.) at Loyola University New Orleans. Her research interests are centered around social and digital media effects on socio-political issues in the United States.

Preparing for the Academic Market

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



AEJMC Job Hub Alums: (Left to Right) Shannon Scovel, Ph.D. at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Heesoo Jang, Ph.D. Candidate at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Renee Mitson, Ph.D. at University of Florida.

Heesoo Jang, Ph.D. Candidate: I pursued my Ph.D. at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My research focuses on digital platform governance and artificial intelligence ethics in the context of media and strategic communication. I was on the academic job market during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Renee Mitson, Ph.D.: I just defended my dissertation at the University of Florida and have specifically been working in their public relations department. Most of my research focuses on internal public relations or internal stakeholders such as employees and investors as well as potential employees. I often examine how leaders' communication language impacts employee perceptions and behavioral intentions. I participated in Job Hub last year as well as the job market.

What was the result of your experience in the job market?

Scovel: I applied to nine jobs in Fall 2022 and was excited to land my position at the University of Tennessee. My job started in the Fall 2023, so I will be heading into my second year in Knoxville in Fall 2024.

Jang: I have accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in Media Law and Ethics in the Journalism Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, beginning on September 1.

Mitson: I was lucky to have several final interviews and three R1 job offers. I ended up deciding to join the Public Relations department at the University of Oregon.

Did you participate in the AEJMC Job Hub? Tell us about your experience.

Scovel: I participated in the AEJMC Job Hub at the 2022 AEJMC conference in Detroit and had a positive experience. My mindset going into the Job Hub was to take every interview as a learning experience, even if the job description or the job title weren't perfect matches to my dream job. I participated in about a half dozen interviews at AEJMC, some of which were with schools I had reached out to and others were with schools that had reached out to me. I also scheduled several informal coffee chats with schools that I was interested in who were not part of the Job Hub. After the Job Hub, I took a more strategic approach and only applied to positions that directly aligned with my research area of interest. Several of my on-campus visits stemmed from interviews I did as part of Job Hub; my experience at Job Hub (combined with the informal chats) did end up leading to my current position.

Jang: Yes, I participated in the AEJMC Job Hub. It was a positive experience overall. It provided me with valuable practice in researching institutions, interviewing, and delivering elevator pitches. Although my current position did not come directly from the Job Hub, the networking opportunities it provided were incredibly beneficial. Through the connections I made, I received new job ads that led to zoom interviews and on-campus visits.

Mitson: I think Job Hub varies by which schools and which positions are ready to participate in time each year. I will say that I think Job Hub can make a big difference. I ended being a finalist at two schools where I initially met the search chair at Job Hub. It's a great opportunity to get to know people, to say something memorable about yourself, and differentiate yourself as a real person from a sea of applicants.

It's also a great place to know what the committee is really looking for and get more information than the job postings which are usually broad and cast a wide net.

What advice do you have for students planning to do the Job Hub at this year's AEJMC in Philly?

Scovel: My best advice for the Job Hub is to be confident. Be ready to talk about your dissertation, your area of expertise, what courses you could teach and what value you could bring to a university. I refined my "elevator pitch" quite a bit during the Job Hub process, and the experience of doing all of those interviews helped prepare me for the Zoom interviews and campus visits that came after I applied to different jobs. Going on the job market is scary, and it's easy to be intimidated or overwhelmed, but confidence is key (even if you feel like you have to "fake it 'til you make it"). The Job Hub was also a great way to meet potential future colleagues and learn a little bit more about the culture at different universities.

Jang: For students planning to participate in the Job Hub, I recommend the following:

1. Start Early: Begin preparing your job materials and promoting yourself in advance.
2. Network Extensively: Use the Job Hub to connect with as many people as possible. Let everyone know you are on the job market.
3. Practice: Prepare and practice your elevator pitch, research on the institutions, and interview skills.
4. Be Yourself: Authenticity is crucial. Make sure you present who you are and what you value in a potential position.
5. Use Feedback: Seek and incorporate feedback on your materials and interview techniques from mentors and colleagues.

Mitson: Follow up with people, thank them. Pay attention, ask questions. Be nice and polite. Take an interest in the school. Dress appropriately.

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CSGE Annual Meeting: Tuesday, July 23, 2024



CSGE Meeting Registration

Preparing for the Academic Market

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What is one thing you wish you had known prior to the job market?

Scovel: The biggest thing I wish I knew prior to the job market was the impact of timing. When you first send in an application, it can feel like an eternity before you hear back from a school (if you hear back from the school at all). But, once the interview process starts, everything moves quickly, and you'll be expected to make decisions fast. You may have to make decisions about which on-campus interviews to take, or even which job to take, based on the information you have at the time, regardless of whether you've heard back from every school where you applied. This can be an emotional process, so be sure to find a couple of trusted friends and mentors that you can be honest with and talk through each step.

Jang: The importance of openly discussing and understanding what a "good fit" truly means for both the candidate and the institution. It goes beyond just matching research interests—it involves values, culture, and community as well.

Mitson: That getting a job is often, and everyone will tell you this, about fit. So while you might love a job, they might be looking for someone that just isn't ultimately you, even if you were the best candidate in the world. For instance, they might want someone who is critical, or strong on quantitative or studies a specific subject.

We're excited to announce that our Commission's business meeting will be virtual this year. We want to make sure everyone can participate regardless of in-person conference attendance.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET/2 p.m. PST. Please register with this [link](#) or scan the QR code.

During the meeting, we will share CSGE updates, approve bylaws, and elect new officers. We are seeking enthusiastic members to join these committees. The Teaching Chair is a ladder position with a three-year commitment. Graduate students and early career faculty are highly encouraged to volunteer for leadership positions.

If you are interested, please email vice head Briana Trifiro (btrifiro@bu.edu) so that we can get your name on the ballot.

Your participation and insights are crucial in shaping the future of our division. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to AEJMC. We look forward to seeing you at the business meeting!

In one word, how would you describe your job market experience?

"Intense" - Shannon Scovel

"Eye-opening" - Heesoo Jang

"Chaotic" - Renee Mitson

These considerations are so much bigger than you, and you should NOT try to change who you are to who you think they want because there's nothing worse than being hired for a job where the faculty wish you were someone else. It taught me to instead of focusing on being what people wanted, to focus on being the best version of myself. That really helped!

How did you balance the job market with your other responsibilities (teaching, research, dissertation, etc.), as well as your mental health?

Scovel: This is the million-dollar question. There were about six weeks in the fall of my last year as a Ph.D. student where I wasn't able to spend any time on my dissertation — my days were full of job interviews, campus visits and teaching expectations. I was being pulled in so many different directions trying to create engaging research presentations and teaching demos for my campus visits while still honoring my commitments back at Maryland. I was fortunate to have a group of wonderful colleagues and advisors who supported me throughout this process, academically and emotionally, but the fall semester was hard.

Jang: Balancing the job market with other responsibilities was challenging. Here's how I managed:

1.Organization: I created a detailed schedule and a spreadsheet to keep track of job applications and deadlines.

2. Prioritization: During peak application times, I focused more on job applications, knowing that my research would slow down temporarily.

3. Support Network: I leaned on my mentors, colleagues, and peers for advice, feedback, and emotional support.

4. Self-Care: I made time for hobbies, spent time with loved ones, and took breaks to maintain my mental health. Planning small activities like coffee shop visits or gym sessions helped keep me balanced and energized.

Mitson: It was really hard. And doing it while teaching was really hard. And finishing my dissertation. I think the only advice I have is to only apply for jobs that you are somewhat relevant for. You want to be broad enough, but you also don't want to waste your own time. Applications take a long time! They are another job.

If you do not do PR research or have never worked in PR or have never taught PR, then do not apply to strictly PR jobs. I guess as a frame of reference, I applied to about 40 jobs, but I know people who applied to 70+. I think the likelihood there are that many that are relevant to you is unlikely.

About the Author

Elizabeth Cox is a Ph.D. Candidate in Mass Communication at Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma. Her research program focuses on sport communication and public relations, with a complementary emphasis on crisis communication.

Things “Youse” Need to Know: What To Do in Philly

By Elizabeth Cox
CSGE Communications Committee

As you prepare for your research presentations and teaching demonstrations, remember to plan a little fun in your day. Philadelphia is a city full of rich history and good food, and I've put together a list of things to do, see, and eat in between your research sessions and networking opportunities.

We produced a Google Map with all of these locations. Click on the link below or scan the QR code.

Things to See

- [Liberty Bell](#) and [Independence Hall](#) - 526 Market Street - For fans of American history, this is a necessary stop on your first trip to Philly. The Liberty Bell is free to view (beware of long lines), and Independence Hall requires a ticketed reservation [\$1].
- [President's House Site](#) - Corner of 6th and Market Streets - After seeing the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, walk to the President's House Site, an outdoor exhibit exploring the contradicting values of freedom and liberty in a country with slavery. [Free]
- [Rocky Statue & Steps](#) - 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway - For fans of one of the most iconic sports films, plan a trip to see the Rocky Balboa statue and famous Rocky steps. The iconic underdog is immortalized in the bronze statue, and film fans should plan a run up the 72 steps leading to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. [Free]
- [LOVE Park](#) - 16th Street and JFK Boulevard - This is home to the famous LOVE sculpture for those looking for an Instagrammable photo spot. The park also offers weekday food trucks. In addition, if you plan to visit on Wednesday, you may catch a wedding by the sculpture. [Free].



CSGE Google Map: Philadelphia



Things to See in Philadelphia: (Left to Right) Philadelphia City Hall and Tommy DiNic's inside Reading Terminal Market. (July 2017, Photos by Kris Vera-Phillips)

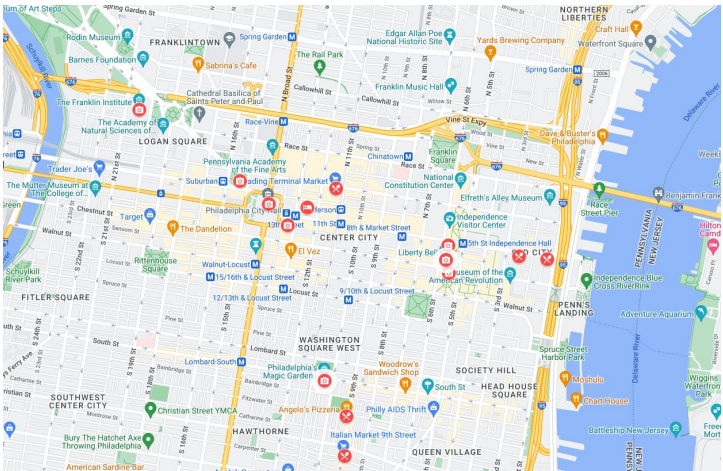
Things to Do

- [Listen to the Wanamaker Organ](#) - 1300 Market St. - Located inside a Macy's, The Wanamaker Organ is the world's largest fully functioning pipe organ. You can hear daily shows of the organ twice a day - Monday through Saturday at noon and 5:30 PM. [Free]
- [Philadelphia's Magic Gardens](#) - 1020 South St. - While this does have a ticket cost it, the mosaic art exhibit is a unique and immersive spot for those who love art. Created by artist Isaiah Zagar, the mosaic comprises handmade tiles, mirrors, bottles, and other items to develop the abstract environment. [\$15/adult]
- [Philadelphia City Hall](#) - 1400 John F. Kennedy Boulevard - City Hall is a short walk from the conference hotel. If you're looking for an incredible city view, the tour takes you on a 100-year-old elevator to a 360-degree view. [\$16/adult]
- [The Franklin Institute](#) - 222 N 20th Street - For those with kids joining them at the Conference (or just science-loving adults), The Franklin Institute offers an exciting exploration into science and technology, including a new exhibit all about space. [\$24/Adult - General Admission]

Things to Eat

- [Reading Terminal Market](#) - 1136 Arch Street, #400 - A short walk from the conference hotel, this market has over 80 vendors. A quick look at their directory highlights various cuisines, including Caribbean, Dutch, Chinese, Indian-Pakistani, Thai, Georgian, and many others.

- [South 9th Street Italian Market](#) - 919 S 9th St. - This outdoor Italian market has more than 200 businesses. Those craving Italian food will surely find some incredible authentic dishes in the market.
- [Shane's Confectionery](#) - You must stop at America's oldest continuously operating confectionery shop for those with a sweet tooth. The chocolates and candies are made on-site, and their ingredients are mostly sourced locally.
- Philly Cheesesteak - It would be a crime to leave Philly without trying a famous Philly Cheesesteak. While it would be impossible to name the best place to purchase a cheesesteak (without ever visiting), I've researched. For the popular tourist spots, plan a trip to Geno's Steaks or Pat's King of Steaks. According to my research (TikTok), a few other popular places include John's Roast Pork, Dalessandro's Steaks, Sonny's Famous Steaks, and Angelo's Pizzeria.



[AEJMC CSGE: Google Map of Things to do in Philadelphia](#)