

# One-stop party shop open

## Corporate events arranged at the drop of a hat

BY DAMIAN INWOOD, THE PROVINCE    SEPTEMBER 13, 2009



Marc Smith runs a hospitality firm called Amuse Consulting and will be offering the Harrison Gallery as a venue for corporate parties during the Olympic Games.

**Photograph by:** Gerry Kahrmann, The Province, The Province

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Vancouver event planner Marc Smith has set up a one-stop party zone for clients wanting to hold a bash during the 2010 Olympics.

"We're offering a high-end party at a low price point," said Smith. "We can put on a gold-medal event at a fraction of the cost."

Smith, who owns Amuse Consulting, has rented the Harrison Gallery at Homer and Smythe Streets as a ready-made hospitality suite.

"Lots of companies have left planning Olympic hospitality to the last minute," said Smith. "Booking this hospitality suite means an Olympic party can be planned in a very short time.

"Companies can just book our suite, select their food and beverage, invite their guests, then leave everything else to us."

Smith said clients will be able to rent the 4,500-square-foot space from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily for between \$18,500 and \$25,000.

The gallery can hold up to 250 people and Smith's company will provide event-planning services, bar and coat check staff, a photographer, a professional DJ service, and custom décor, including corporate logos all over the room.

Clients will be expected to pay their own catering costs.

The suite will be available for Olympic bookings from Feb. 12 to 28 and for the Paralympics Games from Mar. 12 to 21.

Smith said many companies have been sitting on the fence with regards Olympic planning due to the recession.

He said he has been in talks with one Olympic national team about using the space.

"For someone to replicate what I am doing in this space for one day would cost close to \$80,000," he added.

"I haven't heard of anyone else doing something like this."

Smith, who has invested \$15,000 in the project so far, will provide four of his own staff, as well as hiring four bartenders, two doormen and two coat check attendants, a DJ and an audio visual technician.

Smith's previous clients include BC Hydro and RBC Financial Group.

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