

200 GORGEOUS PLACES TO GET MARRIED

SEATTLE BRIDE

**THE TOP
WEDDING VENUES,
DECOR EXPERTS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS,
FLORISTS AND MORE**

Creative Ideas from
25 Local Weddings

**Awe-Inspiring
Floral Decor**

**THE CITY'S
SWANKIEST
RECEPTION
SITES**

*Plus
Romantic New
Wedding Gowns
for Fall*

**BEST
of
BRIDE**

FALL/WINTER 2016

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DISPLAY SEPT/OCT

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**BEST OF THE BEST:
2016'S BRIGHTEST**

**ALL-AROUND
WEDDING VENDOR**
Herban Feast

Best in show: The offerings just keep getting better and better from B.J. Duft's Herban Feast: Swift on the heels of the launch of its own floral design studio, Herban Bloom, has come the addition of two more venues to the roster, Froggsong Gardens on bucolic Vashon Island and the coolly rustic Lodge at Fall City Farms. Add to this equation the catering and event company's ever creative, locally sourced cuisine and innovative, even whimsical, event decor and styling services, and it all adds up to a big win for this well-respected vendor.

Finalists: Perfectly Posh Events, CORT Party Rental.

**NEW WEDDING
VENDOR**
**McMenamins Anderson
School**

Best in show: Equal parts kitsch and cool, and outfitted in the hotel chain's signature quirky decor style, the new McMenamins Anderson School has vendors and couples alike buzzing about this gem, housed in an 1930s-era schoolhouse in Bothell. With five different private event spaces to choose from accommodating as many as 600 guests, plus a swimming pool,



HERBAN FEAST

brewery and on-site movie theater, this stay-and-play venue is sure to please everyone.

Finalists: The Sidecar Mobile Bar, Bridal Bliss Event Planning

**NEW RECEPTION
SITE**

Metropolist

Best in show: Housed within the Ederer Crane building in burgeoning SoDo (see page 40), Metropolist blends the best of modern cool and historic charm within its airy, flexible-use space. A real estate firm by day, party spot by night, the versatile venue boasts 6,000 square feet of combined space across three

rooms, along with vaulted ceilings, exposed trusses and even a 25-foot-tall antique crane, a carryover from the building's origins as a production factory.

Finalists: McMenamins Anderson School, Canvas Event Space

**WEDDING PLANNER
TIE!**

Perfectly Posh Events

Best in show: Owner Holly Patton and her team not only excel in offering step-by-step, stress-free guidance in planning easygoing yet elegant events, but are also becoming well known for their innovative decor elements (think: hanging vintage orbs and lush greenery suspended over reception tables) and incredibly thoughtful touches throughout.

Weddings with Wendy

Best in show: With more than 25 years of experience under her belt, planner Wendy Wojcik boasts a posh and polished design eye as well as an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the Seattle wedding scene, both of which lend themselves to stellar relations with other vendors and thus, very happy clients.

Finalist: Wonderstruck Event Design



MCMENAMINS
ANDERSON SCHOOL

**DAY-OF-WEDDING
COORDINATOR**
The Invisible Hostess

Best in show: Keeping the big day on schedule and the stress to a minimum, the team at The Invisible Hostess—led by “boss lady” Sheena Kalso—brings a “can do” attitude to all elements of wedding coordination, and also provides a signature wedding booklet (a detail-packed, no-stone-left-unturned walk through the wedding day) for each client.

Finalists: Weddings with Wendy, Perfectly Posh Events

**SET THE SCENE: :
DECOR, RENTALS AND
INVITATIONS**

FLORAL DESIGNER
Flora Nova Design

Claim to fame: Well regarded for her ultralush floral creations, owner Christiane Zweifler of Flora Nova Design manages to walk the line between elegance and effortlessness with her designs. Coupled with the firm's trend-based works of art (for example, oversize, overgrown blooms, dramatic hanging installations and tall, trailing centerpieces), Flora Nova further lends its expertise with specialty rentals, draping, lighting and table-escape design services.

Finalists: Fena Flowers, Floressence



PERFECTLY POSH EVENTS



FLORA NOVA DESIGN



INVITATION DESIGNER Paper Fling

Claim to fame: Ruth Song's masterly manipulation of paper and other unique materials—for example, Lucite and wood—has garnered her many fans (us included!), who love the extra-special, custom wedding invitations and paper goods this Kirkland-based designer creates. Song sets a pretty, polished tone for the celebration months ahead of the big day itself.

Finalists: Paper Moxie, Songbird Paperie

RENTALS Pedersens Rentals

Claim to fame: With an expansive catalog—more than 1,800 different items—that includes everything from flatware to glassware, you can count on Pedersens to meet your rental needs. Family-run since 1949, the company is often the first to offer trend-driven items (such as rustic wood chargers).

Finalists: Grand Event Rentals, CORT Party Rental

PLACE TO BUY WEDDING SUPPLIES Paper Passionista

Claim to fame: Featuring wedding invitations and paper goods from more than 25 respected designers, Gayle O'Donnell's Paper Passionista is the concierge of the invitation world, bringing curated options to the workplace or home on your schedule, in addition to

OUR FAVORITE THINGS: EDITOR'S PICKS

Best Booze on the Go

The Sidecar Mobile Bar

Operated by self-described "booze nerd" Brad Davidson and his wife, Kate Cioffi, this cute retro mobile bar—a whimsical, tricked-out 1957 Mercury trailer—arrived on the scene in early 2016 (one of many stellar new trucks, see page 42). Offering throwback cocktails, such as Sazeracs and Negronis, as well as twists on the classics (such as a strawberry Pimm's Cup), The Sidecar crafts some of the most creative signature drinks around—sign us up!

Most Creative Hanging Installations

Kaleb Norman James Design

No one does lush hanging greenery and florals quite like event designer Kaleb Willis of Kaleb Norman James Design. With an eye for drama—the Kirkland-based planner has been known to wire manzanita branches together to create one grandiose installation, or to incorporate vintage lanterns and candelabras amongst trailing vines—balanced by a natural aesthetic that often includes locally sourced salal, eucalyptus greenery or Washington-grown grapevines and clusters. Willis has garnered fans such as Seahawks long snapper (and recently married client) Clint Gresham.

Best Partnership

Sheena Kalso and Desiree Hartsock for The Aisle Files

Two heads are usually better than one, but when those two minds belong to Sheena Kalso—owner of Best of Bride-winning planning firm The Invisible Hostess—and Desiree Hartsock—a former Bachelorette (of the reality-TV series), wedding gown designer and blog editor—it's a match made in heaven. The dynamic duo teamed up this year to produce *The Aisle Files*, a veritable how-to guide to wedding planning, packaged in informative online modules that couples can access any time they please. With Kalso covering the logistics (the budget, the venue and the all-important questions to ask your vendors), and Hartsock focused on the vision and style considerations for the big day, this innovative planning model allows lucky brides and grooms access to expert advice for less than 100 smackaroos (\$99 for a 6-module bundle).

CREATIVE FAVORS Lady Yum

Claim to fame: Given that the tagline for this Kirkland-area bakery is "Macarons & Mischief," should we be surprised that it churns out some of the most creative little treats around? Packaged in clear boxes with color-coordinated ribbon, the darling French-style macarons come in innovative flavors such as beer and pretzel, salted brandy Nutella and pink peppercorn grapefruit—yum, indeed.

Finalists: Little Squirrel Bakery, Fran's Chocolates



scheduling private appointments in her Kennydale studio. Known for her hands-on approach and expert eye (O'Donnell was a wedding planner and the owner of a paper goods store in previous lives), the Paper Passionista will be with you every step of the way.

Finalist: PS Stores