

Dîner en Blanc DC Transforms the Heart of the Nation's Capital into one of North America's Largest Picnics

Ahead of Labor Day, the French-inspired tradition drew thousands, turning the streets between the U.S. Capitol and the White House into a spectacular soirée.

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-- As the sun dipped behind the monuments on Saturday, August 29, a shimmering wave of white swept across Pennsylvania Avenue. In a matter of minutes, tables unfolded,

crystal caught the twilight, and thousands of candles flickered to life. For one unforgettable evening, the epicenter of American power belonged to nearly 4,000 guests who had spent months awaiting this secret revelation. This was the 11th edition of [Dîner en Blanc Washington](#)

[DC](#)— one of North America's largest picnics— an evening that began, as it always does, with a secret and ended, as it always does, in a site full of strangers who left as friends.

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Every year the location and faces evolve, but the core feeling—that shared purpose of gathering for no other reason than to celebrate life together—only grows stronger.”

*Linda Davis, President + CEO,
The Davis Group*

Facing the glow of Capitol Hill, just ahead of Labor Day, a time when wearing white symbolizes leisure, community, and a deep-seated desire for conviviality, at precisely 6:45 p.m., the evening's signature signal—a sea of white napkins rising in unison—marked the commencement of the feast. What followed was a masterclass in urban alchemy: an elegant, open-air tableau with exquisite tablescapes that blended the intimacy of a Parisian garden

party with the rhythmic heartbeat of the District.

This year's event transcended the traditional picnic, evolving into an active creative space. Building on a new cultural partnership with the [Alliance Française](#), the evening honored the deep, historic ties between France and the United States. This collaboration, anchored by the



DÎNER *en* BLANC

WASHINGTON DC

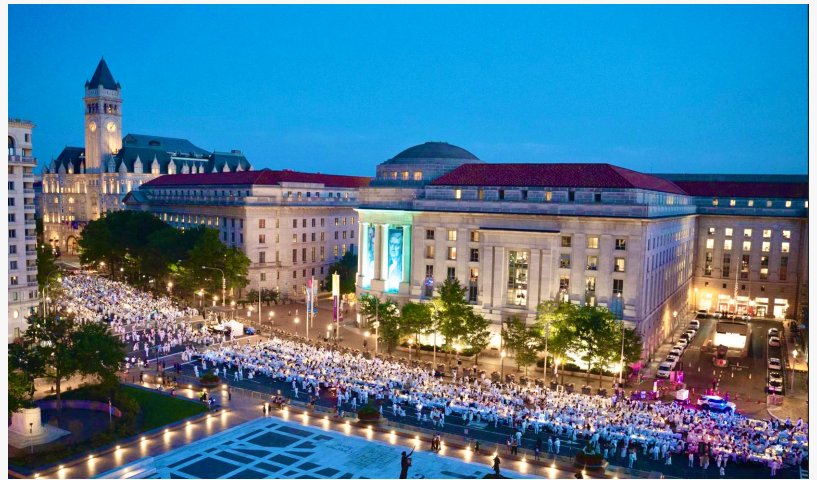
Dîner en Blanc Logo

universal spirit of joie de vivre, infused the night with a sophisticated, transatlantic elegance.

Simultaneously, the event's long-standing partnership with Art to Go-Go—Washington, D.C.'s official Arts & Culture District, powered by the Anacostia Business Improvement District (BID)—brought the visual arts to the forefront. Anacostia-based artists moved among tables, their brushes capturing the evening in real time, creating a vibrant, living canvas that blurred the line between attendee and art. As the night progressed, the sophisticated jazz of Rhythmic Accents and the infectious energy of The Experience Band & Show took hold, eventually igniting the crowd in a spontaneous, synchronized dance that filled the avenue with movement.

The evening was as much a feast for the palate as for the eyes. Long white tables laden with an abundance of meticulously curated gourmet spreads—a blend of classic French delicacies and local culinary tributes. Guests poured crisp vintages and effervescent champagnes into crystal glassware, the clink of toasts ringing out against the backdrop of the city's most iconic architecture. From artisanal charcuterie boards to delicate pâtisseries, the shared meals became the evening's heartbeat, fostering conversations that spanned cultures and backgrounds over the simple, timeless pleasure of breaking bread together.

"You spend months planning, choosing a centerpiece, thinking about the



2026 DEBDC Panoramic View. Photo by Eric Vitale



DEBDC Dinning Guests 2026. Photo by Dr. Ceylon Mitchell II



Napkin Wave DEBDC 2026. Photo by Dr. Ceylon Mitchell II

menu, and then the second you sit down and look around at everyone else who did the same thing, none of that matters anymore," said Jacquelyn Ann Irby, a veteran Dîner en Blanc Washington, DC table leader. "It's just people, together, in a moment that only happens once a year."

As the second highlight of the evening arrived at 8:00 p.m., the avenue transformed into a starry ocean. Thousands of sparklers flickered in a synchronized dance, casting a warm, delicate glow against the backdrop of Freedom Plaza and the nearby White House. It was a fleeting, magnificent display of community in a city often defined by its rigid schedules and politics.



The Davis Group, L-R: Kaitlin Davis Latonick, Linda Davis, and Bryer Davis. Photo by Dr. Ceylon Mitchell II

"Every year I think I've seen the most beautiful version of this night, and every year I'm wrong," said Linda Davis of [The Davis Group](#), which has produced the D.C. edition since 2014. "The location changes, faces evolve, but the core feeling—that shared purpose of gathering for no other reason than to celebrate life together—only grows stronger."

Candelabras, crystal, and towering floral arrangements transformed Pennsylvania Avenue into an open-air ballroom. Embracing the 2026 theme, "Une Soirée Parisienne: La Belle Époque," the event became a high-fashion runway: feathered headpieces, opera gloves, and vintage lace evoked a bygone golden age, while sleek, architectural tailoring offered a sharp modern contrast. It was a vivid reminder that a strict monochromatic dress code offers limitless terrain for personal flair. Yet beneath the striking aesthetic splendor lies its most enduring tradition: the "leave no trace" ethos. By the night's end, the avenue was returned to the city, pristine and untouched, leaving behind only the collective memory and wildly beautiful social media posts from an evening when thousands of strangers departed as friends.

This event is more than a party; it is a global phenomenon celebrated in over 120 cities across 40 countries, yet one that remains distinctly, stubbornly tied to the local spirit of Washington. With a waitlist now exceeding 85,000, Dîner en Blanc stands as a testament to the city's hunger for art, beauty, and shared humanity.

To join the experience in 2027, prospective guests are invited to register on the Washington, D.C. Fan List at washington.dinerenblanc.com. For real-time updates, follow @dinerenblancdc on Instagram and DinerEnBlanc.Washington on Facebook.

About The Davis Group, LLC

Since 2014, The Davis Group, LLC has produced Dîner en Blanc – Washington, D.C., alongside events in New York City, Boston, and Charleston. Known for executing high-touch experiential events, The Davis Group brings a blend of logistical precision and creative vision to every project. More information can be found at thedavisgroupllc.com.

About Le Diner en Blanc

Diner en Blanc is more than an event—it's a global cultural phenomenon that brings friends, old and new, together to celebrate life, food, fashion, and community with a touch of mystery and a sense of spontaneity. Elegantly dressed in white, guests gather at a secret location for a chic, mass picnic, bringing their own tables, chairs, and gourmet baskets. The location remains undisclosed until the very moment of arrival, creating a sense of anticipation and delight. Over the course of the evening, attendees dine, dance, and reconnect with the finer things in life, all while sharing an unforgettable, magical experience in some of their city's most iconic public spaces.

Today, Diner en Blanc has grown into an international movement, celebrated cumulatively over its history in more than 120 cities across 40 countries. While Diner en Blanc International is headquartered in Montreal, Canada, each event is hosted locally by passionate organizers who bring their own flair to the original Parisian concept. Together, these gatherings unite communities worldwide in a celebration of gourmet cuisine, extraordinary entertainment, and the joy of connection. For more info, photos, and videos from around the world, visit dinerenblanc.com.

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