

Marriott Hotel and Marina to the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau. What I didn't recognize was the impact this desire would have on the delicate balance between a headquarters hotel and a CVB, and the complications that would ensue. Needless to say, I wasn't "hirable," and it put into question my loyalty. What I learned is that life has a cadence, and if we are open and self-aware, we can appreciate and be present to the fact opportunities will happen when they are supposed to happen. I learned patience and perseverance, both of which have served me well in my career. And I actually made the move to the CVB one year later.

MY NEXT BIG CAREER GOAL

I inherently love to learn and love to teach, and I think the two go hand in hand. Just last year, I completed a certificate course from the University of California, Irvine in eLearning and instructional design. I see this in my future, and will practice patience and perseverance for that to come to fruition.

MY ADVICE FOR YOUNG MEETING PROFESSIONALS

Be open. It's like the engraving on the car's side mirror: "Objects are closer than they appear." Opportunities will come along and may appear smaller at first glance, when in reality they could be much bigger. Recognize that we all have so many preconceived ideas, but let's not be so quick to judge. Whether it's a career move or an important decision, personally or professionally, consult with others you trust and learn from their perspectives. ☀

— Christopher Durso



ROOM SET

Extra Points

A private corporate event scored a touchdown by staging a concert on the turf at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field.

If you're bringing in Billy Idol, you want to go big. With the sneering '80s rocker headlining a concert for a 1,000-plus-attendee corporate event earlier this year, The Charles Group event-planning firm decided to make full use of the venue: Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Dinner was in the SCA Club Lounge, an expansive space on the Linc's Club Level, but the concert itself was down on the turf, where The Charles Group built a custom-designed tent. "The custom tent had a number of challenges," said Charles Group Managing Partner Susan Dunkelman, including "a small window of time for setup, flooring that had to be installed just days before the event to protect the field, and construction of an additional walkway tent to shield guests as they made their way into the main tent during inclement weather." ☀