Seattle’s annual fireworks display for New Year’s Eve has been rated one of the best in the country and is televised each year on all of the local broadcasting channels. This much-anticipated display features more than 10,000 firework shots and 2,000 firework devices, and is set up in about 60 locations and on three levels of the Space Needle. If you’re interested in seeing this annual event in person, then come out to one of these favored viewing locations and watch the Space Needle light up in a blaze of firework glory on New Year’s Eve.

Warwick Seattle Hotel
The view of the Space Needle from the hotel’s Premier Rooms is unbeatable. Choose to stay in and view the New Year’s Eve fireworks show from the comfort of your room through the floor-to-ceiling glass window wall. Or open the slider and step out on the private Juliette balcony. Located just blocks from the Space Needle, guests often choose to celebrate at Seattle Center, or at one of the local events, venues or locations listed below.

Space Needle www.spaceneedle.com
One of Seattle’s biggest New Year’s celebrations happens at the Space Needle and includes one of the best views of its annual fireworks show, right from the Space Needle’s observation deck. You can either attend the dance party on the observation deck, which starts at 9 p.m., or make it a full-night celebration that includes a six-course dinner at the Sky City restaurant. Both celebrations last until 1:30 a.m. and include a champagne toast at midnight, as well as excellent views of the fireworks show. The Space Needle celebrations are for persons 21 and over and require reservations, semi-formal attire and up-front payment.

Seattle Center www.seattlecenter.com
If you don’t wish to pay to see the annual fireworks show, simply come to the base of the Space Needle and the surrounding areas of the Seattle Center for a bird’s eye view. Keep in mind that crowds of people gather at this location to watch the fireworks, and the numbers can make their way into the thousands. If you’ve ever watched the live broadcast on television at home, then you know it is wise to arrive early to claim your viewing spot. Also know that traffic around the Seattle Center is highly congested from approximately 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. and some surrounding streets are closed for safety reasons.

Alki Beach Park www.seattle.gov
The Alki Beach Park is another prime location to view the annual New Year’s fireworks display shot from the top of the Space Needle. Alki Beach sits on Seattle’s Elliott Bay and offers unobstructed views of the Space Needle fireworks show, in all its glory, on New Year’s Eve. While sitting along the water may be a much colder viewpoint option, keep in mind that the park does have fire pits to help keep you warm.

Queen Anne Hill / Kerry Park www.seattle.gov
Many areas on Seattle’s Queen Anne Hill offer pristine views of the Space Needle and its fireworks display. One popular location where people like to gather to watch the fireworks is Queen Anne’s Kerry Park. This is the park where many local photographers come to get the very best pictures for magazines, postcards, calendars and more. The only drawback is that Kerry Park is rather small, so it is best to get there early and claim your viewing spot. You will not only have one of the best views of the New Year’s Eve fireworks, but also of the Seattle city skyline, Elliott Bay and the surrounding mountain ranges.

On Lake Union And Elliott Bay
Waterways Cruises www.waterwayscruises.com
Argosy Cruises www.argosycruises.com
If you have access to a boat or wish to take a New Year’s Eve cruise to view the annual fireworks display, Lake Union and Elliott Bay near the Seattle waterfront are two additional prime locations to consider. For those who do not have boat access, Waterways Cruises offers a three-hour New Year’s Eve cruise on Lake Union that includes views of the fireworks display, a midnight champagne toast, on-board dancing to a live DJ and plenty of drinks, appetizers and desserts. Argosy Cruises of Seattle also offers New Year’s Eve cruises that depart from Piers 55 and 56 and cruise along the waterfront of Elliott Bay. In addition to having direct views of the Space Needle fireworks show, guests can enjoy dancing to the music spun by the on-board DJ, dinner, drinks and a champagne toast at midnight. Cruises are for persons 21 and over only. Reservations and up-front payment are required.

From posh art galas and riverboat soirees to hip-hop sessions and stand-up comedy, here are 28 assorted cultural bashes that promise to get you out and enrich your life this New Year’s Eve.

ART PARTY

Chihuly Garden and Glass
New Year’s pARTy This swanky gala not only allows for a late-night stroll through Dale Chihuly’s glass exhibit, but also boasts the best view of the neighboring Space Needle fireworks. Enjoy Northwest-inspired appetizers and gaze through the glass roof as 2013 arrives in full color. 8pm, $200.
COMEDY

Wing-It Productions
Jet City Improv’s New Year’s Eve Spectacular Dress up and stay late for lots of improv-comic revelry. There’s a champagne toast and dance party at midnight, with plenty of appetizers and desserts (and a full bar) to keep you going strong. 8pm–1am, $35–$100.

Market Theatre
Xtreme New Year’s Theatresports Party Watch teams of theater nerds battle it out for two hours of Theatresports—games of improvised comedy—to be the last comics standing in 2012. After the countdown begins, the party is on. 10pm, $28–$40.

Re-bar
The Dina Martina Christmas Show Carols crumple in the hands of actor Grady West’s alter ego, a surreally untalented chanteuse whose sole gift remains her ability to inspire convulsive laughter. Head out after to show to watch the Space Needle fireworks, or stay late for a very Sapphic New Year’s bash. 8–9:30pm, $20–$25.

Comedy Underground
New Year’s Eve with Drew Barth Start the New Year with a laugh, courtesy of Drew Barth, a standout Seattle stand-up who’s shared a stage with the likes of Jim Gaffigan and Nick Swardson. Shows at 8 & 10:30pm, $25.

CONCERTS

Benaroya Hall
New Year’s Eve: Concert, Countdown, and Celebration Ring in lucky 2013 with Morlot and the symphony, Benjamin Grosvenor as featured pianist on Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto no. 2, followed by Beethoven’s Ninth. A post-show party follows in the grand lobby. 9pm, $52–$152.

Comet Tavern
New Year’s Eve Bash with Monogamy Party Relive your headbanging days with hard-rocking locals Monogamy Party and opening acts the Wimps, Haunted Horses, and Ubu Roi. 9pm, $7.

The Crocodile
Atomic Rodeo: A NYE Throwdown A night of Americana with headliners Brent Amaker and the Rodeo—a cult cowboy-motorcycle group—and the Atomic Bombshells, a burlesque troupe featured in GQ and Bust magazines. 21+, 8pm, $25.

Dimitriou’s Jazz Alley
Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band This Grammy-winning, congo-drumming band leader brings his spicy beats for two late shows, each with a three-course menu option. Shows at 8:45 & 11pm, $61–$175.

High Dive
Ayron Jones and The Way, Scrumptious and the Backseat, Boxcar Rebellion Seattle blues guitarist Ayron Jones and drummer Conrad Real, prone to rock-star solos, are reason enough to stay awake past midnight. 9pm, $10–$12.

Neptune Theatre
Lazer Ball NYE Top Seattle hip-hop acts Fresh Espresso, Grynh, Keyboard Kid, and Metal Chocolates unite to rhyme all night in the U-District. 8pm, $19.

Paramount Theatre
Beats Antique The electronic world fusion trio Beats Antique employs experimental instrumentals and belly dancing to deliver as unique as any New Year’s Eve experience at the Paramount. 8:30pm, $37–$147.

Q Nightclub
Chus and Ceballos Two Iberian DJs will infuse your first memories of 2013 with their sexy Spanish ritmos. Champagne toast included. 8pm, $40–$130.

Showbox at the Market
Pickwick Seattle’s next breakout act blends indie rock instrumentals and the soulful wailing of LA transplant Galen Disston for a blissful ride into the New Year. 8pm, $21.50–$25.
Sunset Tavern
Rewind This rockin’ and poppin’ ‘80s and ‘90s cover band will happily remind you just how many new years you’ve lived through. 21+, 9:30pm, $20.

Tractor Tavern
Supersuckers Pull on your dustiest boots and kick in the New Year with the dirty cow-punk sound of the Supersuckers. 10:30pm, $25.

The Triple Door
Dudley Manlove Quartet One of the Northwest’s most famous cover bands brings its ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s expertise to the Triple Door for a set that may cover everything from Neil Diamond to the Buggles.

WaMu Theater
Resolution 2013 WaMu Theater turns into one big dance floor as Dieselboy, Doctor P, Funtcase, Mord Fustang, and Rusko gather to help electronic dance music fans shuffle their way into 2013.

White Rabbit
New Year’s Eve Extravaganza with Spellbinder and McTuff Sharing the holiday spotlight: Santana drummer Michael Shrieve’s instrumental group Spellbinder, and organist Joe Doria’s jazzy trio, McTuff. 8pm, $15.

FAMILY

Seattle Center
WinterFest Whether you’re swooshing around the ice rink, watching model trains motor around the Winter Village, or enjoying a performance by the Rhythm Nation, there’s something (free) for everyone in this month-long festival. New Year’s Eve fireworks over the Space Needle help launch us into 2013. 10am–1am, free.

Seattle Children’s Museum
New Year’s Eve Celebration Celebrate the coming of 2013 as it makes its way across the globe by learning about the New Year’s traditions in India, Madagascar, Russia, and many other countries as you go. "Toasts" at 11am, 12, 1, 2, 3, and 4pm, $7–$8.

FILMS

Grand Illusion
Woody Allen in the ‘70s: Annie Hall While Woody Allen remains one of the most prolific and acclaimed filmmakers in the business today, it’s hard to argue that his early work in the 1970s wasn’t his finest. Rediscover his brilliant nebbish roots with a New Year’s Eve screening of Annie Hall (a new 35mm print). 6:30pm, $6–$8.

EVENTS

Bill Speidel’s Underground Tour
Underworld New Year’s Eve Party Take a steamy stroll underground through what was once Seattle’s red-light district. This risque tour includes tales of debauched nights, a cocktail, and midnight champagne toast at Doc Maynard’s Public House. Tours at 7, 8, 9, and 10pm, $25.

Central Cinema
Rockin’ New Year’s Eve Sing-Along Jason Miller hosts this boogie-filled 2012 musical retrospective. Get down to this year’s best and worst music videos. 9:30pm, $12.

EMP
Indulgence New Year’s Eve Party Certainly the most epic of New Year’s Eve opportunities, this bash combines five parties, over 25 bars, three stages, a photo booth, and—best of all—free afterhours access to the EMP museum. 8pm, $59–$350.

Oddfellows
15th Annual New Year’s Eve Tango Ball Don your finest vintage garb and—after a quick tango lesson—dance the year away. A champagne toast, buffet, dessert bar, and raffle prizes await. 9pm, $20–$40.

Queen of Seattle
New Year’s Eve Celebration 2012 Cruise Lake Union on an authentic paddlewheel boat while enjoying music, hors d’oeuvres, and a champagne toast at midnight beneath the Space Needle fireworks. 10–12:30am. $89.
Renaissance Hotel

Inferno NYE Party  Let the New Year rain down upon you with glitter (you know, from the glitter cannons) and the music of Lady Jane DJ. Dress to impress (flapper attire encouraged), watch the burlesque dancers, and hop into the photo booth to commemorate the occasion. Funds raised from casino games support LGBT Ugandans. *8pm, $45–$55.*

*INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL VENUES FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES.*