

AARON WOLOWIEC, CAE, CMP, CTA

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Aaron Wolowiec is a learning strategist and meetings coach for leading trade associations and individual membership societies across the United States. Committed to the latest research and trends on learning, intentional networking environments and meaningful transfer exercises, he launched Event Garde, a professional development consultancy, in 2011.

Aaron earned a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University (CMU). He's also a certified association executive (CAE), a certified meeting professional (CMP) and a certified tourism ambassador (CTA), as well as an Association for Talent Development (ATD) master instructional designer.

An active member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), Aaron is chairman of the Professional Development Section Council (PDSC), as well as past chairman of the Young Association Executives Committee (YAEC) and a 2009-2011 Diversity Executive Leadership Program (DELP) scholar.

Currently, he serves the Michigan Society of Association Executives (MSAE) as a top-rated Academy of Association Management faculty member on professional development and as the lead CMP Prep Course instructional designer/facilitator. Aaron is also a nationally recognized presenter on professional development, meetings and events-related topics.

His contributions to the meetings industry earned Aaron the Convention Industry Council's (CIC) top #CMP30 Influencer Award in 2015. Likewise, he serves on the Michigan Meetings + Events editorial advisory board and writes a regular column for the magazine called, "The Meetings Coach."

In addition to maintaining the Event Garde blog, featured in both Alltop and Association Universe, Aaron has contributed to such national publications as Association Adviser, Associations Now, BizBash and Meetings & Conventions.

When he isn't traveling, Aaron enjoys exploring the local food and drink scene, transforming his 1912 Spanish Revival house into a tranquil home and tending to various wedding day details. He is currently co-writing a learner engagement e-book and pursuing certification as a Technology of Participation (ToP) facilitator with the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

Aaron lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with his fiancé, John, and their three pets Gryffin, Lillie, and Pippin.