

Stress-Free Holiday Party Planning



It's the most wonderful time of the year: the winter holidays! It's time to celebrate, have fun, eat and drink until our hearts are merry. But wait! It's your turn to host the upcoming celebration. Your stress level is rising and you have no idea where to begin. No worries! I have developed 10 party planning tips to make sure your next holiday party is something your guests will admire and enjoy.

- 1. SET THE DATE.** Choose a date that is at least two weeks before the upcoming holiday. Most people enjoy attending parties well before the holiday so they have more free time to complete their holiday errands.
- 2. START YOUR GUEST LIST.** The first step in making your list is to determine the number of guests that can fit in your house comfortably.
- 3. CHOOSE A COLOR THEME.** Typical color schemes for the holiday season include an array of reds, golds, greens and browns. But don't be afraid to "color outside of the lines" and use other shades like purples, pinks, blues and silver. Once you decide on your color theme, buy decorations, dinnerware, glassware, serving dishes, table linens and napkins to coordinate the colors.
- 4. ORDER INVITATIONS.** Once you establish your color theme, it's time to order the invitations. Order them online or visit a local stationary company. Note: Invitations should be sent out at least two weeks prior to the party.
- 5. CREATE THE MENU.** Skip the stress of cooking. Call a caterer! Columbus has tons of great caterers and some of them specialize in holiday menus. The caterer can help you tailor your menu to your theme, whether it's formal or informal. Don't forget to add yummy desserts to the menu, too!
- 6. PLAY GREAT MUSIC.** Use music to set the mood of your party. Download a playlist on your iPod full of fun and festive music. Keep the music upbeat and make sure you have a sufficient amount that can continue to play throughout the party.
- 7. DRINK AND BE MERRY.** If you're hosting a party for a large group, I recommend having a punch bowl filled with eggnog or cranberry sangria. Punch bowls are a great feature to get your guests to mingle. If you want to make a drink that will wow your guests, have a smoothie machine on hand to make a signature frostini.
- 8. PICK UP SOME FRESH FLOWERS.** Flowers are an easy way to decorate your home. Pay a visit to your local florist and pick up decorative wreaths, poinsettias and garlands and place them throughout your home for added holiday flair.
- 9. GIVE PARTY FAVORS.** Your guests enjoyed an evening of great food, lively music and signature drinks, all while complimenting you on planning an entertaining affair. Why not give them a keepsake to take home? These gifts can be as simple as a personalized ornament or your frostini recipe.
- 10. HAVE FUN!** Be a guest at your own festive bash. Reduce your party planning stress by using my 10 party planning tips. When you plan early and organize your holiday planning checklist, you'll find yourself with more time to enjoy all of the things you've prepared for your guests.

Celebrating without stress is what the holidays are all about! Plan ahead so you and your guests can eat, drink and be merry!

Love in Planning!



Lucretia Williams is the owner and lead consultant of Distinct Event Planning, LLC. Distinct Event Planning, LLC is a full-service wedding and special event planning company serving brides and special event clients throughout Columbus, Ohio. Their mission is to ensure that they offer you the best and most professional event planning services. Lucretia has more than 14 years in event planning and event design experience. She and her team strive to make sure each client experiences a beautifully relaxed, uniquely designed and worry-free event. Lucretia can be contacted at (614) 577-1844, info@DistinctEventPlanning.com or visit her at www.DistinctEventPlanning.com.

