

Wedding Planning

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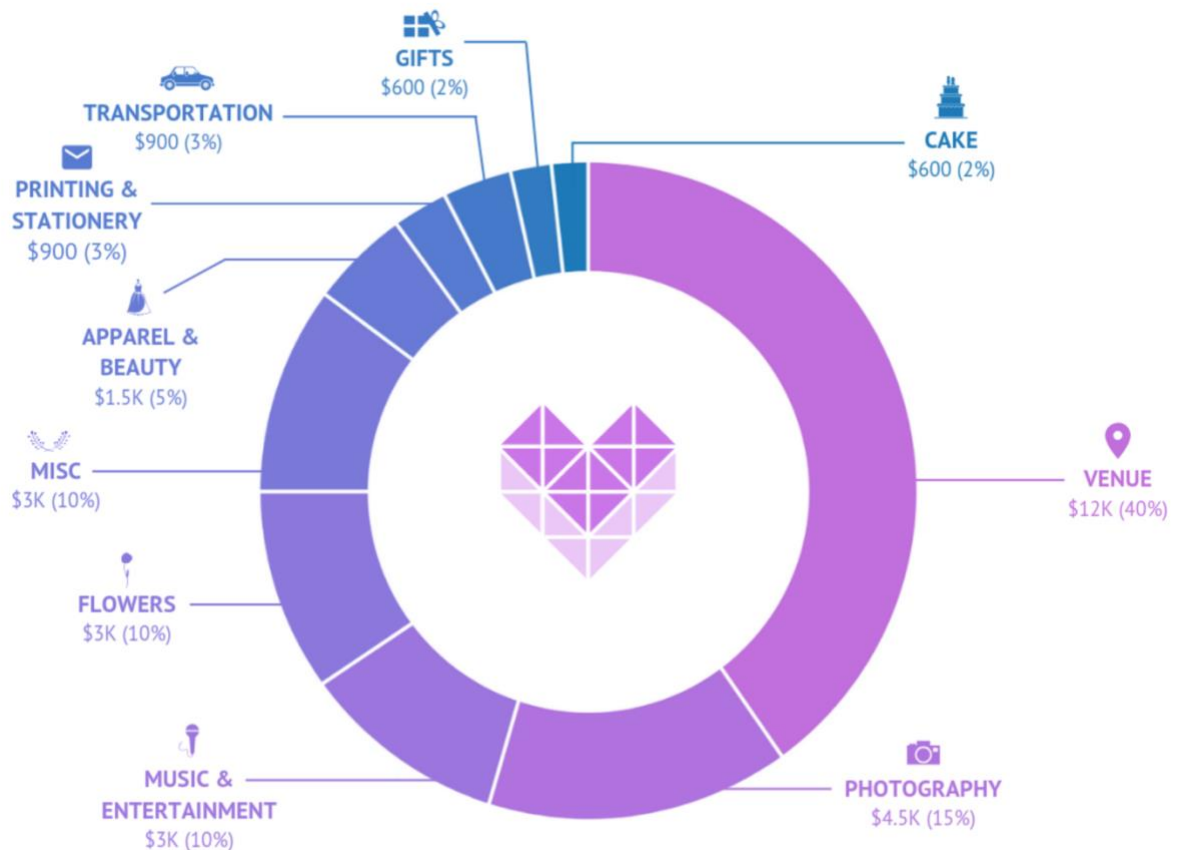
As you read through this, just remember that all of this is completely subjective. You do not need any of these things (minus a marriage license, a couple of witnesses and someone to legally marry you) to actually get married.

Budgeting

This will be arguably the hardest part about wedding planning. Beginning a marriage will include lots of conversations that will be hard, talking about finances will be one of them.

On average couples spend 20-30% of their annual income on their wedding. Whether you choose to spend more or less is completely up to you and your preferences.

Below is a graph on an average \$30,000 wedding. (Averaging around 150 guests)





Separate Into Four Categories.

Ceremony Location, Reception Venue, Reception Entertainment, Ceremony Music, Photographer, Videographer, Catering, Bar Service, Planner, Coordinator, Hair, Makeup, Jewelry/Rings, Cake/Dessert, Officiant, Transportation, Accommodations, Rehearsal Dinner, Décor/Rentals, Dress/Attire, Invitations, Tent Rental, Website, Valet/Parking Service, Favors/Guest Gifts, Wedding Party Gifts, Registry, Lighting/Sound (if not getting entertainment), Event Insurance, Honeymoon, Photo Printing, Childcare Services, Health & Wellness (Spa Treatments), Wedding Nails, Fireworks, Security Services, Wedding Date.

Note: Your wedding date can absolutely cost more money because of time of year, day of the week, holiday weekend, or even because of what is going on near your venue!
(Feel free to add in anything that is not listed that you plan to utilize)

MUST HAVES:

(Things that you are not willing to compromise on when it comes to budget)

COMPROMISING ITEM:

(Things you are open to spending less on or going without)

DON'T NEED:

(Things you are happy to go without)

ADD ONS:

(Bonus items, things that you would like to add if the budget allows)

Things to discuss to determine your budget.

How much can each of you contribute towards your wedding per month?

Are your parents going to contribute to anything financially for the wedding?

Debt is a potential factor; you need to discuss if you are willing to go into debt to make your dream wedding happen.

Budget Equation: $(\text{Your Salary} \times .30) + (\text{Partners Salary} \times .30) = (\text{Your Wedding Budget})$

Extra: Gift Money



Note: Gift Money. Be very careful with how this is utilized. Situations change very frequently, and I have witnessed a lot of couples being put into difficult situations because of hypothetical gift money. Generally, I suggest gift money to be used towards the “Extra” category. That way if something happens, it isn’t as devastating and won’t threaten the status of your event.

Best ways to lower your wedding cost.

Find a venue that includes more bang for your buck. Don’t be afraid to look around and maybe a little further away than originally plan.

DIY. Crafting and thrifting can save you a lot if you STOP at your budget mark.

Consider off season dates, or even a different day of the week. Don’t let venues fool you, they would kill for a weekday wedding.

Cut your guest list. I know this is scary but all my clients that do this, are so happy they do. Don’t invite guests “Just because”, they should mean something to you. You should be happy to share your day with them.

Flexibility. If you do choose to spend more on one item, you can always cut corners on less important items. There is always an alternative to more expensive vendors/décor. You just need to do the research.

Elope. This is a great option to couples who really care about the honeymoon, you can do both in one go! And spend more on yourselves!