



# Newsletter

Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Mexico

August 2016

# Amarillo Civic Center Complex is Pleased to Announce the Promotion of Ashley Peacock to Event Manager



Ashley Peacock has recently been promoted to Event Manager at the Amarillo Civic Center Complex (ACCC). Ashley has been an Event Supervisor at the ACCC since March 2013 and is excited to step into her new role. Ashley is a native of Central Texas but calls Amarillo home along with her son and husband. Ashley graduated from Texas A&M Corpus Christi in 2012 where she obtained a bachelor's degree in business management and a minor in theater. "I have been involved with theater for 12 years now. I am ecstatic to find a place where I can apply both degrees in the Texas Panhandle." Operations Manager Christopher Post, CVP said: "Ashley's skills, knowledge and impeccable attention to detail will be an asset to the Amarillo Civic Center Complex".

## HOUSTON FIRST ANNOUNCES NEW CULINARY OFFERINGS IN CONVENTION DISTRICT

Avenida Houston transforms downtown into cultural destination

Downtown Houston will soon expand its culinary landscape along the Avenida de las Americas. A series of restaurants will open on the ground floor of the George R. Brown Convention Center and in the forthcoming Marriott Marquis Houston. Grotto, Bud's Pitmaster BBQ and B&B Restaurant, among other concepts, will join downtown newcomers Pappasito's Cantina and the recently-expanded Starbucks at the Hilton Americas-Houston, beginning the transformation of the convention district into the cosmopolitan destination Avenida Houston.

"With these new openings at the GRB and the broader convention district, we will have a concentration of restaurants in the heart of downtown that I hope will better serve both residents and visitors and function as a catalyst for even more development in the area," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Houston has become one of our nation's culinary capitals, offering authentic flavors from around the world right here in our backyard. Our city has many entertainment and dining hubs, and I think the Avenida with its wide variety of options will become another great one."

Avenida Houston will serve as a walkable, pedestrian plaza that will connect visitors to the surrounding attractions, including Minute Maid Park, Toyota Center, BBVA Compass, the convention center, Marriott Marquis, Discovery Green and the Hilton Americas-Houston. In addition to restaurant offerings, Avenida Houston will feature unique art installations and programmed events.

"The creation of Avenida Houston will be a long-awaited vision come to fruition for our city and Houston First," said Dawn Ullrich, president and CEO of Houston First Corporation. (Continued, page 2...)

"Often, the GRB and convention district are the only glimpse of Houston that visitors receive and we hope to leave them with a lasting, positive impression and encouraged to return."

Link to a list of restaurants and their descriptions: <a href="http://www.grbhouston.com/grb-construction/">http://www.grbhouston.com/grb-construction/</a>

## HOUSTON FIRST ANNOUNCES PUBLIC ART INITIATIVE IN CONVENTION DISTRICT

#### Ten art installations transform district into cultural destination

Downtown Houston will soon expand its cultural landscape within the George R. Brown Convention Center and Partnership Tower along the transforming convention district, known as <a href="Avenida Houston">Avenida Houston</a>. A series of ten art installations by local Houston artists will be placed throughout the buildings as part of Houston First's <a href=""Houston Infusion" initiative">"Houston Infusion" initiative</a>, all of which are slated to be complete by October 15, 2016. Works fabricated in a variety of media and imagined by a diverse group of artists and collaborators will explore themes of space and technology, Houston's natural flora and fauna, reuse and recycling, the city's vibrant cultural diversity and its entrepreneurial history.

"Houston is one of our nation's cultural capitals, home to world-class museums, acclaimed art galleries and a huge community of talented artists," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Infusing Houston's vibrant art scene into Avenida Houston will serve not only residents, but also provide visitors with a glimpse of Houston that we hope will leave a lasting positive impression."

Avenida Houston will serve as a walkable, pedestrian plaza that will connect visitors to the surrounding attractions, including the convention center, Marriott Marquis, Discovery Green, Minute Maid Ballpark, Toyota Center, Compass BBVA Stadium and the Hilton Americas-Houston.

In addition to these smaller installations, two monumental works of public art will serve as major focal points both inside the George R. Brown Convention Center, Soaring in the Clouds by Ed Wilson, and Wings Over Water by Joe O'Connell + Creative Machines, a kinetic work outside on the new plaza along the Avenida de las Americas.

"Avenida Houston and the revamped GRB Convention Center will showcase Houston's vibrant culinary and culture scenes," said Dawn Ullrich, president and CEO of Houston First Corporation. "It is unique for a convention district to offer such a comprehensive reflection of a city's personality, and we hope visitors will walk away with a positive sense of what Houston has to offer."

Link to more information, artists and renderings/samples of previous works: <a href="http://www.grbhouston.com/grb-construction/">http://www.grbhouston.com/grb-construction/</a>

# Civic Center Music Hall in Oklahoma City hosts inaugural PREPARE FEST for emergency safety Aug. 20

Being prepared and knowing what to do during an emergency can make a life-or-death difference for your family. Learn how to stay safe from potential emergency situations during PREPARE FEST – the City of Oklahoma City's first emergency preparedness festival. The festival runs 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at the <u>Civic Center Music Hall</u>, 201 N Walker Ave.

PREPARE FEST will highlight the importance of creating a readiness plan for natural disasters including tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and wildfires as well as public health or safety threats such as active shooter incidents, and more. Residents can speak with local emergency responders and community service organizations as well as attend an emergency preparedness seminar that begins at 11 a.m.

Seminar speakers include police Lt. Frank Barnes from the <u>Oklahoma City Office of Emergency Management</u>, National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Smith and the state Health Department's Glenda Ford Lee. Oklahoma City Police Sgt. Jason Knight will introduce the City's new <u>"See Something, Say Something"</u> program in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

At the end of the seminar, participants will take part in a mock evacuation drill for the Civic Center Music Hall. The drill will help Civic Center staff and volunteers train to evacuate people from a large event, and participants can see a large event evacuation plan in action. (Continued, page 3...)

Admission to PREPARE FEST is free. Seminar participants may enjoy a free lunch courtesy of the Municipal Employees Credit Union. Advanced registration required. To register, visit the calendar pages of <u>okcciviccenter.com</u>.

Participating partners include the Oklahoma City Office of Emergency Management, Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma City Fire Department, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma City-County Health Department, Oklahoma City Animal Welfare, KOCO-Channel 5, American Red Cross, American Storm Shelter Association, Oklahoma Insurance Department, National Weather Service, Oklahoma Climatological Survey, EMSA, United Way of Central Oklahoma, Neighborhood Alliance, Long-term Area Recovery Committee and Oklahoma Gas & Electric.

IAVM venues are invited to attend. Register online and contact John Siska, <u>405-297-1012</u>, <u>john.siska@okc.gov</u> for additional information about how your venue can participate. Join us to learn more about how to host this event in your venues.

## Will Rogers Memorial Center seeks Public Events Coordinator

Do you like being mobile, working with your hands, working hours other than the standard 8-5, and not having to work in a traditional office setting? Do you enjoy attending events at the Will Rogers Memorial Center? If you thrive on this type of work and take pride in being a part of a team, you are who we are looking for to fill the Public Events Coordinator position at the Will Rogers Memorial Center.

- The Public Events Coordinator plays a very important role in making sure the clients ideas become a reality. Will Rogers hosts a diverse calendar of events which includes World Championship Horse and Livestock Shows, Consumer and Trade Shows, Cultural, Educational, and Performing Arts Shows and much more. As a Public Events Coordinator, you will work with the client to develop and evaluate the overall event specifications. You will also support and monitor the operational aspects of events, and additional assigned tasks related to the Public Events Department and event coordination.
- Medical and Dental insurance, Paid Vacation time, Paid Sick time, Paid Bereavement leave, Paid Holidays, Paid Life
  Insurance, Short Term and Long term disability, Retirement plan and Employee Discounts available for various
  attractions.

For more information, visit the City of Fort Worth website: fortworthtexas.gov.

Apply Online only at: <u>careers.fortworthtexas.gov</u> (Closes 08/12/16)

Send copy of resume to: <u>kevin.kemp@fortworthtexas.gov</u>

#### Will Rogers Memorial Center seeks Stage Hand Crew Leader

Do you like being mobile, working with your hands, working hours other than the standard 8-5, and not having to work in a traditional office setting? Do you enjoy attending events at the Will Rogers Memorial Center? If you thrive on this type of work and take pride in being a part of a team, you are who we are looking for to fill the Stagehand Crew Leader position at the Will Rogers Memorial Center.

- The Stagehand Crew Leader plays a very important role in making sure the clients ideas become a reality. Will Rogers hosts a diverse calendar of events which includes World Championship Horse and Livestock Shows, Consumer and Trade Shows, Cultural, Educational, and Performing Arts Shows and much more. As the Stagehand Crew Leader, you will work with the client to develop and evaluate the overall audio visual specifications for their event. You will coordinate and facilitate the set-up of stage and technical equipment along with related sound, lighting and video systems. You will also support and monitor the operational aspects of events, and additional assigned tasks related to the Public Events Department and audio visual operations.
- Medical and Dental insurance, Paid Vacation time, Paid Sick time, Paid Bereavement leave, Paid Holidays, Paid Life
  Insurance, Short Term and Long term disability, Retirement plan and Employee Discounts available for various
  attractions.

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#### **BOK CENTER #13 ARENA IN THE UNITED STATES**

Venue is SMG's highest ranked arena in the Continental U.S.

As the venue approaches its eighth birthday, BOK Center continues to maintain its status as one of the world's busiest concert arenas. Earlier today *Pollstar* announced their 2016 Mid Year Top 200 Arena Venues based on ticket sales and BOK Center finished #13 in the United States and #36 in the world. BOK Center was also the highest ranked arena in the Continental United States managed by SMG, the Philadelphia-based venue operator that manages over 230 facilities, nearly 70 arenas, and over 1.75 million seats worldwide.

"We couldn't have this sustained success without the support of the loyal fans along with the agents and promoters who continue to believe in the Tulsa market," said BOK Center General Manager Jeff Nickler. "This honor doesn't belong to SMG, but also to our regional ticket buyers, sponsors and corporate partners that have supported this venue from day one."

The Tulsa venue made the #13 spot on the list, between Nashville's Bridgestone Arena and The Forum in Los Angeles and ahead of venues in much larger regional metropolitan areas like Dallas, Houston, Chicago, Phoenix, Denver, Austin and Minneapolis.

The second quarter of 2016 was highlighted by folk rock group Mumford & Sons and their first ever appearance at BOK Center in front of a sold-out crowd on April 6. The acclaimed pop superstar Justin Bieber returned to rock BOK Center for his third sold-out show in support of his new album *Purpose* on April 7.

"Congratulations to BOK Center staff, all local music fans and our promoter partners for achieving such a high ranking for U.S. ticket sales," said Doug Thornton, Executive Vice President for SMG. "This shows that Tulsa continues to be a strong market for live entertainment and we are thrilled to be a part of that success story."

The O2 (London) topped the overall rankings and Barclays Center (Brooklyn) garnered the top United States spot. Several other SMG facilities made the top 200 including Wichita's INTRUST Bank Arena (ranked 89th in the world) and Oklahoma City's Chesapeake Energy Arena (ranked 104th in the world). The rankings are determined by tickets sold worldwide for concerts from January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016. *Pollstar* totals do not include tenant sport team ticket counts, some family shows, or SMG-produced special events.

BOK Center has already announced a stellar line-up for the remainder of 2016. Coldplay will rock BOK Center on August 25, Oklahoma native Toby Keith will perform for the first time ever at BOK Center on October 14 and legendary singer and songwriter Billy Joel will visit Tulsa on November 11 for one of only four arena shows this year outside of Manhattan. Other recently announced acts include Dolly Parton, Dixie Chicks, Korn & Breaking Benjamin and Black Sabbath.

# FIFTH ANNUAL DODGEBRAWL BRINGS MORE THAN 3,000 GUESTS TO DOWNTOWN TULSA



The fifth annual Dodgebrawl Tournament presented by 2 Fellas Moving Company took place at BOK Center on July 23, 2016. The tournament hosted more than 450 participants and welcomed 3,471 guests to downtown Tulsa. In addition, Live Great 918: Tulsa Fitness Fair presented by Health Zone at Saint Francis highlighted local health and fitness vendors to educate guests on living an active lifestyle.

"SMG Tulsa is proud of another successful Dodgebrawl tournament," said Jeff Nickler SMG Tulsa General Manger. "This requires a special thanks to all the sponsors, the participating teams and all of our health and fitness vendors. The most special part of this event is the opportunity to give back to the community."

Dodgebrawl was designed by SMG Tulsa as part of its lineup of special events that focuses on giving back to the community. Each team selected a charity to represent throughout the tournament. The top three winning teams won prize money for their charities as well as the Best Team Name and Best Team Uniform award-winners. For the 2016 event, Dodgebrawl raised more than \$4,500 for local charities and nonprofits.

(Continued, page 5...)

1st Place: Deadly Dodgin' Dinos benefiting Pryor Ministry Center

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Blue Balls benefiting One Hope Vision Ministries

3rd Place: Slime Balls benefiting God's Mountain Church

Best Team Name: Where My Wrenches At benefiting Tulsa Youth Services

Best Team Uniform: Teenage Mutant Ninja Brawlers benefiting Folds of Honor

(Continued, page 5...)

In addition to the Dodgebrawl tournament, Live Great 918 featured a variety of health and fitness vendors, including BeneFIT Medical Apparel, Systems 4 Wellness and Gold Dragon Taekwondo.

Dodgebrawl made its debut in July of 2012 with 50 participating teams. This year, 64 teams participated in the tournament. Each year, the SMG staff aims to make the event bigger and better for the Tulsa community. The addition of Live Great 918 gave Tulsa residents the opportunity to meet gym and fitness vendors to hear about ways to stay fit in Tulsa.

Dodgebrawl 2016 was presented by 2 Fellas Moving Company. Other partners include KMOD, 92.1 The Beat, The Buzz, our friends at iHeart Radio, Shocktop, Fox23, Tulsa Community College and BlueStone Natural Resources. Live Great 918 was presented by Health Zone at Saint Francis. Both events were coordinated and produced by SMG Tulsa Special Events.

## Schuler Shook Seeking Theatre Specialist.

The Schuler Shook Dallas office is seeking an organized, detail-oriented technical theatre expert with CAD and Revit drafting experience.

You will work with our collaborative team of theatre planners and consultants. You will document everything we work on, from seating layouts to back of house design to technical theatre systems designs. Your tech theatre background will inform your work and allow you to participate more completely in our design studios and discussions. You will have the opportunity for some travel for meetings and site visits. Job location is Dallas.

A background in, or experience with, technical theatre is required. You must have a minimum of 3 years' experience with AutoCAD, 2 years in AutoCAD 2010 or higher. Experience in Revit 2012 and higher is a plus. You must be proficient in MS Word, Excel and Outlook and be able to meet client deadlines. Familiarity with Photoshop, Acrobat, and Blue Beam are a plus. We are a client-driven office, so be ready to pitch in beyond the drafting aspects of the job.

This is a full-time position available with benefits, 401k, health insurance, paid vacation, transit vouchers, and the chance to work in a collaborative, friendly environment. Salary commensurate with experience and abilities. Includes opportunities for bonuses. Minimum education: Bachelor's degree.

Interested? Send your amazing cover letter, resume and samples of your work (CAD should be in .dwg format) to Mollie Prince at <a href="mailto:mprince@schulershook.com">mprince@schulershook.com</a>. Put CAD/Revit Drafting Theatre Specialist in the subject line of your email.

#### War Memorial Stadium Staff Receive CSVS Certification

Recent incidents across the globe at various venues has illuminated the important role event staff provide in event day safety and security. But, the best prepared emergency action plans are meaningless without a trained and qualified event staff. War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, Arkansas has recently recognized this and has invested in a serious and long-term paradigm shift in its approach to event training and qualification, by requiring its core group of event staff to earn the Certified Sport Venue Staff (CSVS) certification. The CSVS certification provides both online training and background screening and is offered by the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4) and eVerifile.

War Memorial Stadium hosts close to three hundred different types of events each year, and approximately 90% percent of those can be staffed with thirty or less frontline event staff. During the old paradigm, War Memorial Stadium struggled finding professional and qualified event staff and it was fiscally difficult to justify spending time and money on event staff who were here today and gone tomorrow. The CSVS certification is providing not only an affordable means to enhance the safety and security of events, but quality training program for the Stadium's staff. With the core group of event, required to achieve the CSVS certification, War Memorial Stadium is making positive strides providing a safe and enjoyable venue for our guests.

Article by: J.O. Bailey, Assistant Manager, War Memorial Stadium, AT&T Field

## **Lots Happening at the Curtis Culwell Center**

The University of Phoenix ceremony on July 30<sup>th</sup> capped off an incredible season of graduations at the Curtis Culwell Center. This was the first season the CCC utilized walk-thru MAGs for all ceremonies. The execution was a great success as over 200,000 guests were welcomed to the facility from May to July.

The CCC also exercised some capital improvements this summer. The entire arena lighting system was converted from halide to LED lights. This will reduce both energy costs and delays in turning the lights on and off. The six arena air suites also saw upgrades as new glass half-walls were installed. This now provides an aesthetically pleasing barrier to each suite overlooking the arena bowl.

Micheal Robinson II, who serves as an event coordinator at the Curtis Culwell Center, was recognized during IAVM's Venue Connect in Minneapolis as a member of the "30 Under 30" program. Micheal has been a key member of the CCC team since August of 2014. During his tenure, he has managed the Southwest region robotics competition, multiple large-scale cheerleading competitions, sold-out concerts, and countless other events. The CCC is very proud that Micheal earned this prestigious and well-deserved honor.

Finally, the Curtis Culwell Center was selected to serve as host again for the UIL Volleyball State Tournament through 2017. This will continue a partnership started in 2013 with the UIL.

## **Enid Event Center & Convention Hall Renamed Central National Bank Center**



**Spectra by Comcast Spectacor,** managers of the Enid Event Center & Convention Hall, announced an expanded 10-year partnership with Central National Bank and Trust whereby the facility will be known as the Central National Bank Center. The facility hosted a ribbon cutting where city officials, and the community where welcomed to unveiling of the new name. Central National Bank Center is centrally located in Northwest Oklahoma and has been the host to a multitude of concerts since it's opening in June 2013.

blink-182 Sells Out the Don Haskins Center



On July 26, Live Nation and The University of Texas at El Paso Office of Special Events presented blink-182 to a sold-out house at the Don Haskins Center. Opening acts All American Rejects and A Day To Remember joined the pop punk trio for the third stop on their North American tour in support of their new album *California*.

## **Conventions Bring Big Business to Tulsa in July**

#### The 9th Annual Tokyo in Tulsa was held at Tulsa's Cox Business Center July 15-17, 2016.

Tokyo in Tulsa (TnT) is a fan-based convention with a focus on Japanese Anime, Culture, and Pop Culture. Tokyo in Tulsa proves that education does not have to come from traditional sources and that even two vastly different world views can find common ground. TnT hosted over 300 hours of programming for Anime, Gaming (Console, Arcade, PC, LARP, CCG, Laser Tag and Tabletop), Japanese and Tulsa Culture, Art, Writing, Music, Shopping (with vendors, artists and exhibitors from all of the country). 16,000 people attended this event over a three-day period.

#### USA Gymnastics 2016 Stars & Stripes Cup came to Tulsa and Cox Business Center July 21 - 24.

Trampoline was one of four events included in the gymnastics discipline of Trampoline & Tumbling, often referred to as T&T. Both girls and boys participated in all four T&T events. This is elite level trampoline at its finest but participation can also be thrilling and exciting while the skills are at a more basic or recreational level. Over 3000 people were in attendance.



#### Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association (OIGA) Conference & Trade show moved in to Tulsa's Cox Business Center July

**25 - 27.** Topics at the conference included case studies, social media marketing, security, capturing the elusive millennial market and more. More than 2,500 industry professionals from all over the country attended this premier event specifically devoted to all aspects of the Indian Gaming industry.



## Cox Business Center Tulsa is looking for an Event Relations Coordinator

The Event Relations Coordinator under the direct supervision of the Event Services Manager provides a variety of administrative and operational support to designated personnel and/or departments. Acts as liaison between the facility and clients, ensuring all clients' requirements are met and facility rules, regulations and policies are adhered to. The Event Relations Coordinator will perform various duties in connection with scheduled events including customer contact, coordination and distribution of information within the facility, and client follow-up. Duties will vary depending on the event. The complete job description and the job application can be found at <a href="http://bokcenter.com/employment/">http://bokcenter.com/employment/</a> and <a href="http://www.coxcentertulsa.com/careers/">http://www.coxcentertulsa.com/careers/</a>.

# DRAKE KICKS OFF SUMMER SIXTEEN TOUR WITH FUTURE AND SPECIAL GUESTS WITH SOLD OUT PERFORMANCE AT THE FRANK ERWIN CENTER



The highly anticipated Drake Summer Sixteen Tour with Future and Special Guests kicked off at the Frank Erwin Center Wednesday, July 20 to a sold out crowd of more than 11,500. From start to finish, the show did not disappoint with huge screens, virtual flames, pyro and an elaborate rigging. DVSN opened, followed by a one hour set from Future with Drake closing out the night with two hours of uninterrupted high energy.

"This was the largest production we've had in the Erwin Center and it went very well," said Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director John Graham. "It's also a great opportunity to be the first date and kick off a big tour like this."

The excitement in the arena was contagious and it was evident that Drake was more than pleased with the launch of his tour in Austin saying, "I'm going to go work on a new album and come back to Austin, Texas. I love you more than you'll ever know."

#### **Pueblo Convention Center Hosts RMSER Annual Meeting**

Pueblo, CO, August 1, 2016 – Spectra by Comcast Spectacor, which provides Venue Management, Food Services & Hospitality, and Ticketing & Fan Engagement to the Pueblo Convention Center, will welcome Rocky Mountain Service, Employment, Redevelopment (RMSER) on Aug. 2-5 for the organization's 2016 annual meeting.

The convention is expected to attract more than 600 attendees from around the state of Colorado, with direct visitor spending estimated to exceed \$500,000. During the event, the attendees will be staying at the following local hotels: Courtyard By Marriott, Springhill Suites, Wingate Inn, Hampton Inn South and La Quinta.

"Rocky Mountain SER is excited to come back to Pueblo for its 2nd Annual Training Conference," said Christopher Hall, Chief Executive Officer of Rocky Mountain SER. "The City of Pueblo is one of RMSER's main hubs, and we look forward to hosting our conference at the Pueblo Convention Center for a second consecutive year. The City of Pueblo loves RMSER, and we want to give back to them in a very special way. The Pueblo Convention Center treats us as if we are a Fortune 500 company hosting its conference."

"We are pleased that Rocky Mountain Service, Employment, Redevelopment is returning to the Pueblo Community as well as the Pueblo Convention Center," said Spectra's Brian Hoffman, general manager of the Pueblo Convention Center and Pueblo Memorial Hall. "We hosted their very successful 35th anniversary event last year, and we expect to have another successful event this year. This event is great for the Pueblo Community, not just from the financial side but also it provides an opportunity for individuals from around the state to come here and experience culture that makes this community so great."

RMSER has served low-income and disadvantaged families over the past 30 years by successfully administering grants and contracts through agencies such as the US Department of Labor and Employment, as well as the US Department of Health and Human Services. Currently, RMSER serves more than 3,000 low-income and disadvantaged families annually through its Head Start, Migrant Head Start, Workforce Training, Migrant Farmworker, and Youth and Community programs.







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#### Thank you to our newsletter contributors this month!

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Jerry Cohen – War Memorial Stadium
Meghan Doyle – BOK Center
Joe Gonzalez – Pueblo Convention Center/Memorial Hall
Kelly Hadsall – Civic Center Music Hall
Kevin Kemp -Will Rogers Memorial Center
Haley Kinney – Amarillo Civic Center Complex
Bill O'Malley – Central National Bank Center
Han Owens – Amarillo Civic Center Complex
Mollie Prince – Schuler Shook
Belen Timmons – George R. Brown Convention Center
Julian Valdez – University of Texas at El Paso
Kevin Welch – Curtis Culwell Center

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