



Newsletter

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

March 2017

DEADLINE ANNOUNCED FOR IAVM'S VENUE EXCELLENCE AWARDS AND THE EDUCATION & SERVICE AWARD

IAVM Past Chairman, Bob Mayer, CFE, is honored to serve as the 2016-2017 Chair of the Awards Review Task Force and is pleased to announce the start the process of receiving applications for the [2017 IAVM Venue Excellence Awards](#) and the [2017 IAVM Education & Service Award](#).

The Venue Excellence Award recognizes up to five IAVM venues of any type within the membership that demonstrates excellence in management and operation of public assembly venues. The Education & Service Award recognizes member involvement through community outreach, education opportunities, mentorships, and internships that demonstrate excellence within the industry as well as giving back to the community.

Mayer said that there have been several changes that will strengthen, streamline, and improve the procedure. First, for both awards, IAVM Headquarters will now hold applications for three years, allowing non-winning applicants to simply update information, as needed in subsequent years. Second, winning applicants may reapply after three years. All scoring criteria has been reviewed and updated.

Several changes have also been implemented to improve the Education & Service Award. The award may now be bestowed on an individual (all member categories), venue, or company for the processes and programs in place for the community, company, county, etc.

Another change this year is that all applications will first be adjudicated by small peer review sub-committees made up of representatives of each Sector Committee and the finalists will be sent to the Awards Review Task Force for final review and recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval. So that the full review process can take place in time to have everything complete by *VenueConnect*, the firm deadline for submitting applications is April 24, 2017.

Mayer emphasized that the Association wants to have as many applications for these prestigious awards as possible. More information and applications may be viewed at [2017 IAVM Venue Excellence Awards](#) and the [2017 IAVM Education & Service Award](#).



INTRUST Bank Arena Seeking Operations Supervisor



SMG Managed, INTRUST Bank Arena has an opening for a full-time Operations Supervisor. This position is a working supervisor position that leads a team during the day and may lead overnight changeovers too. Along with working with the crew, the supervisor will direct and coordinate facility personnel, subcontractors, and daily activities involved in the successful preparation and execution of events at the facility. INTERESTED! Check out a full job description at:

http://www.intrustbankarena.com/arena_info/employment

SMG is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, and encourages Women, Minorities, Individuals with Disabilities, and protected Veterans to apply. VEVRAA Federal Contractor.

Apply to:
SMG/INTRUST Bank Arena
500 E. Waterman
Wichita, KS 67202

Recruiter: Kim Hillard, Fax: 316-440-9199, Email: careers@intrustbankarena.com

SMG managed Destination El Paso has Job Opportunity for a Director of Operations:

Destination El Paso, the destination marketing and venue management organization for El Paso, Texas, branded as Visit El Paso for destination marketing and as El Paso Live for venue management. Responsible for convention and meeting development, tourism development, film commission, marketing/branding of the destination, and operations of over 2M gross square feet of public assets which includes the Plaza Theatre, the Abraham Chavez Theatre, the Philanthropy Theatre, Cohen Stadium, the El Paso Convention Center, McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre, and Arts Festival Plaza.

SMG, the leader in privately managed public assembly facilities has an excellent and immediate opening for a Director of Operations at Destination El Paso. The position is responsible to schedule and supervise personnel, subcontractors and daily activities involved in the successful execution of events and maintenance of the facilities by performing the following duties personally or through subordinate supervisors. For detailed job description visit our website listed below.

TO APPLY: <http://www.elpasolive.com/contact/jobs> or HRrecruiter@destinationelpaso.com

This position offers a competitive salary and benefit package. **Please send a copy of your most recent resume and cover letter which includes salary requirements to:**

Emilio Velez, HR Manager, Destination El Paso, 1 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX 79901, 915-534-0660

Applicants that need reasonable accommodations to complete the application process may contact- 915-534-0628.

SMG is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, and encourages Women, Minorities, Individuals with Disabilities, and protected Veterans to apply. VEVRAA Federal Contractor

Full-Time Job Openings with Cox Business Center Tulsa

Assistant Catering Manager position #1731

This position assists Catering Manager in overseeing all Catering Functions to include, coffee breaks, buffets, plated and reception events, offsite caterings, backstage catering; any and all functions serving any food & beverage items. This person also interviews, hires and training employees. For more information, go to: <http://coxcentertulsa.com/jobs/1731-full-time-assistant-catering-manager/>

Tech Services Coordinator position #1728

Under direct supervision, creates department schedules and coordinates technicians and equipment for technical aspects of the facility. Responsible for accurate time keeping and reporting of payroll items to Accounting. Creates and follows up on event financial summaries and supervises daily work calls and crew projects. Assists the Technical Services Manager with client meetings concerning technical services. For more information, go to: <http://coxcentertulsa.com/jobs/1728-full-time-tech-services-coordinator-cox-business-center/>

February Events at Tulsa's Cox Business Center: Galas and Dinos and Cheer, Oh

My!



February is typically one of the busiest months for Cox Business Center and this year was no exception. The month started with a sold-out Tulsa Ballet Idols & Icons gala event followed by other catered fundraising events for the American Heart Association, Jenks Public Schools, Tulsa Area United Way, LIFE Senior Services, YWCA, Street School, Brass & Sassy and Catholic Charities.

In between all of the catered events, CBC hosted "Discover the Dinosaurs" for a second time, two cheer & dance competitions, and a reptile show-truly something for everyone!

New Executive Chef With Arlington Convention Center



Justin Shipley knew from a young age he wanted to become an executive chef. Now after years of experience at Dallas-Fort Worth area restaurants and hotels, Shipley has realized his dream as the newly announced Executive Chef at the Arlington Convention Center.

Shipley graduated in 2004 from The Art Institute of Dallas, where he studied culinary arts. He went on to learn alongside experienced chefs at The Four Seasons Las Colinas, which was invaluable as he later learned to balance running a restaurant and hotel simultaneously as the Sous Chef of Shula's 347 Grill.

Along the way, Shipley held a yearlong externship at the Arlington Convention Center. As with most internships, the biggest takeaway was that in this industry, nothing is given to you.

"You have to earn and work hard, every day for what you want," Shipley said.

When the opportunity came along to work for his beloved Mavericks and Stars, Shipley moved on to become the Executive Sous Chef for American Airlines Center. It was there Shipley's expertise grew, with oversight of every aspect of food service in the suites department. Quickly thrown into arena food service and large-scale events, Shipley made great memories serving events like the Kentucky Derby, NBA All-Star Game, NBA Finals, and US Open.

Coming full-circle, Shipley recently took the role of Executive Chef for Levy Restaurants, which is the exclusive food and beverage vendor of the Arlington Convention Center. Bringing with him a vast array of experiences, the biggest thing Shipley said he's looking forward to is leaving his mark on the guest experience in Arlington.

"There's a Levy way in how things are seen and presented. I want the guest to experience what Levy and myself are capable of by bringing a higher standard of food quality and consistency while elevating service," Shipley said.

The Arlington Convention Center offers full service event planning and catering for events as intimate as 50 guest and as extravagant as 1,800 guests.

Construction Begins on New Fort Worth Arena



Construction for the new Fort Worth Multipurpose Arena, a 14,000 seat venue set to open in November 2019, has officially begun. Multipurpose Arena Fort Worth, the not-for-profit operating entity for the venue, is planning a formal groundbreaking ceremony on April 18. In addition to the arena project, construction is underway for the neighboring parking structure and is scheduled for completion in October 2017. Once the parking structure has been completed, a sales center for the arena will be built on the top level and will display layouts of the Fort Worth Multipurpose Arena suites, loge seats and rodeo boxes. The project is the result of a pioneering public-private partnership between the City of Fort Worth and the private sector, which includes various foundations, individuals and organizations.

EXPO MANUFACTURA 2017 IS A SUCCESS

From February 7 to 9, Expo Manufactura took place in CINTERMEX International Convention and Exhibition Center (Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico), organized by E.J. Krause de Mexico.

This expo, which takes place year after year, presents a group of industry experts sharing challenges, trends, and best practices in the highly dynamic environment of manufacturing.

(Continued, page 4)

Its conference program is designed to analyze and learn more about Automotive Manufacturing, Industry 4.0, Internet of Things, Interconnectivity, Additive Manufacturing, among other topics.

The exhibition had 311 participants that were in 4 of the eight rooms of CINTERMEX, that is, rooms A-E, which add 164,875 sq. ft. (11,869 m²).

According to the comments of Jose Navarro (Chief Executive Officer of E.J. Krause de Mexico) to the El Norte newspaper: “Pre-registration grew by 30 percent with respect to 2016 and we will be visited by 12 thousand professionals from large and small companies”. www.cintermex.com

Happenings and New Faces at Curtis Culwell Center

February kicked off with Spirit Celebration hosting their CGA Grand Nationals event at the Curtis Culwell Center February 11 - 12. The competition included 180 cheer teams from across the state and brought in 4,700 guests throughout the weekend.

The CCC also played host to both the Girls and Boys 5A Regional Basketball Finals. Mansfield Timberview emerged victorious on both the girls’ and boys’ side of the bracket. The Lady Wolves lost a heartbreaker in their State Final, but the boys will try and bring home the trophy on March 10-11 in San Antonio.

On February 27th the Curtis Culwell Center welcomed Myra Palacios as the newest Event Coordinator to the CCC team.



Myra comes to the CCC from the Miami Heat where she worked as a Premium Client Services Intern. Prior to her time in Miami, Myra worked as a Development Intern for the Bearkat Champions Fund, the primary fundraising arm of the Sam Houston State' athletics department.

Myra received her BS in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University in August 2015, where she also minored in Sport Management. In December 2016, Myra earned her MS in Sport Management from Sam Houston State University.

Verizon Arena Breaks Revenue Record in 2016

Article by Arkansas Business, March 6, 2017



Michael Marion, General Manager, Verizon Arena

We’re officially calling it an unofficial record, but that’s only because the numbers are unaudited. North Little Rock’s Verizon Arena set a new revenue record last year: \$7.84 million.

You might recall that Michael Marion, general manager of the events center, told us back in July that 2016 would be a record-setting year for the 18,000-seat venue. The previous high-water mark for revenue was \$7.2 million in 2015.

Will 2017 push the bar higher? In a word, no.

“Last year was phenomenal, but in your standard deviation, you have to return to the norm,” Marion said.

The April 30 concert by Paul McCartney topped the one-day shows at Verizon Arena last year.

The legendary performer drew an electric gathering of 15,624.

BETHANY HASTINGS JOINS PLANO CENTRE AS DIRECTOR OF SALES



Plano Centre has tapped Bethany Hastings as its new Director of Sales. Hastings, formerly the Sales Manager for Courtyard and TownePlace Suites in Grapevine, Texas, brings a diverse background and numerous talents to Plano Centre. Her extensive experience in the hospitality industry also includes numerous positions with the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center also in Grapevine. Hastings holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Texas Christian University.

“As Plano Centre counts down to the completion of its 2.8 million dollar renovation, now is the perfect time for Bethany to join the Plano Centre team in booking new business for our newly upgraded venue,” said Mark Jarrell, Plano Centre General Manager. Without a doubt, Bethany’s many years of hospitality experience will be a huge asset to the sales and booking team.”

Eisemann Center’s Bill Fox Honored by Richardson Arts Alliance *Operations Manager named Ambassador for the Arts*



Bill Fox accepting his award with Charles W. (Chuck) Eisemann seated to his left.

On Saturday, February 18, 2017, William C. (Bill) Fox was named Ambassador for the Arts by the Richardson Arts Alliance at their annual Heart for the Arts Gala. Bill has been Operations and Technical Manager at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts and Corporate Presentations in Richardson, Texas since 2001. Here is a small sample of Bill’s remarks as he accepted this honor.

“So, here we are in a place designed for gathering. A place named for a good friend and filled with rooms dedicated to good friends. This facility is designed for people to meet, to exchange ideas, or share experiences. As a matter of fact we are meeting here tonight while two other events are happening at this very moment in other parts of the building. It is a testament to our success. I am very pleased that you have entrusted this facility to me to care for – for you.

I am a very lucky man. Lucky indeed, I get to work in an industry where I deal with the best intentions of human experience – where art, truth, and beauty are pursued daily. I have great friends, a wonderful family, and my wife Pat, who was instrumental in starting these awards back in 2007.

I was reticent to accept this award as I have never been much for awards, but I felt that this was important not just for me, but for every technician that has sat in the dark ready to turn a knob, push a button or pull a rope. This is for all of my colleagues who work every day to make the stage brighter, louder and safer for all us.”

Select-A-Seat Lubbock, TX Seeks Box Office Manager

Summary: Plans, organizes, and supervises the development, implementation, and operation of a computerized ticketing service for entertainment events.

Essential Functions: Prepare ticketing and seating schemes for input to a computerized ticket system; Coordinate initial sale dates with proper completion of event contract; Select, train, and supervise employees; Maintain records of time worked; Schedule employees to work various events; Negotiate fees and service charges with event promoters; Record cash receipts and credit sales transactions; (Continued, Page 6...)

Administer settlement with promoter according to contract.; Respond to customer inquiries or complaints; provide information; Resolve problems; Develop and implement marketing strategies to promote ticketing service; Sell advertising on tickets and envelopes; Prepare and administer operating budget for ticketing operations; Arrange for maintenance of ticketing equipment; Perform related duties as required.

Qualifications: Completion of a bachelor degree in business administration or a related field with an additional three to five years responsible experience in operation of ticketing service for entertainment, cultural, or sporting events; or any combination of relevant education and experience which provides the following: *Physical Exam Required*

Knowledge and Abilities *Knowledge of:* Business computers. *Ability to:* Learn and use a computerized ticketing service; Supervise the work of others; Develop and maintain effective working relationships; Respond to customer complaints in a courteous manner; Develop and implement policies and procedures; Maintain accurate records; Communicate effectively orally and in writing. *Physical Requirements:* Frequently stand; Occasionally climb stairs; Frequently flex upper trunk forward; Frequently kneel; Occasionally lift up to 50 pounds; Occasionally carry up to 10 pounds; Frequently flex upper trunk forward partial flexing of the knees; Frequently rotate upper trunk forward to the right or left while sitting or standing; Occasionally reach at, above, or below shoulder height.

Salary: \$44,586.88 Annually

Apply Here:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lubbock/jobs/1671118/box-office-manager?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Select-A-Seat Lubbock, TX Seeks Assistant Box Office Coordinator

Summary: Assists in coordinating computerized ticketing operations.

Essential Functions: Assist in planning, organizing, and supervising the daily activities of the ticketing service; Assist in selecting, training, and supervising ticket agents. Develop and conduct appropriate training. Recommend policies covering areas such as conduct and proper dress. Maintain payroll records; Prepare ticketing and seating schemes for input into a computerized system; Record and deposit cash receipts. Assist in maintaining appropriate records. Perform show settlement with lessees; Respond to customer complaints and resolve problems in absence of the Box Office Manager; Assist in the development and implementation of marketing strategies to promote use of ticketing service; Function in the capacity of Management Coordinator during events; Perform related duties as required.

Qualifications: Completion of a bachelor degree in business administration or a related field with an additional two to three years responsible experience in operation of ticketing service for entertainment, cultural, or sporting events; or any combination of relevant education and experience which provides the following: *Physical Exam Required*

Knowledge and Abilities:

Knowledge of: Business computers. *Ability to:* Learn and use a computerized ticketing service; Supervise the work of others; Develop and maintain effective working relationships; Respond to customer complaints in a courteous manner; Maintain accurate records; Communicate effectively orally and in writing. *Physical Requirements:* Frequently stand; Occasionally climb stairs; Frequently flex upper trunk forward; Frequently kneel; Occasionally lift up to 50 pounds; Occasionally carry up to 10 pounds; Frequently flex upper trunk forward; partial flexing of knees; Frequently rotate upper trunk forward to right and left while sitting or standing; Occasionally reach at, above, or below shoulder height.

Salary: \$33,271.68 Annually

Apply Here:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lubbock/jobs/1671110/assistant-box-office-coordinator?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Oklahoma City Blue breaks NBA D-League Record for Single-Game Attendance



The Oklahoma City Blue, Oklahoma City Thunder's D-League team, hosted 17,695 fans at Chesapeake Energy Arena for Field Trip Day on March 8 and broke the single-game attendance record previously held by the Santa Cruz Warriors.

The building welcomed busloads of fans excited to cheer on the Blue against the Long Island Nets. Dance music and O-K-C chants filled the air for the 11 a.m. tip-off and the Blue prevailed with a 98-92 win over the Nets.

SMG Oklahoma City Employee Engagement Committee Celebrates Mardi Gras

The newly instated Employee Engagement Committee at SMG Oklahoma City celebrated its employees with their first event, a Mardi Gras-themed luncheon, hosted at Cox Convention Center on February 28. The team hired local food truck La Gumbo Ya Ya to serve 120 full-time employees. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal of red beans and rice, crawfish etouffee, gumbo and king cake.



The Employee Engagement Committee was established to foster relationships with employees at SMG Oklahoma City and to thank employees for their hard work and dedication to the buildings and guests.

Advertising Agency STAPLEGUN Wins Addy® Award for Chesapeake Arena

Chesapeake Energy Arena Marketing team worked with local advertising agency, STAPLEGUN, to create an award-winning video titled “Chesapeake Book It” to promote the growing Capital City of Oklahoma City and the arena’s potential in the entertainment industry. The high energy video was selected as the first-place winner in the Advertising Industry Self-Promotion category for Film, Video and Sound. Link to video: <https://we.tl/qrXOF11XVn>

DIRECTOR OF THE FRANK ERWIN CENTER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER 28 YEARS WITH ORGANIZATION



Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director of the Frank Erwin Center, John Graham, announced this week that he will retire from his position at the end of August 2017. Graham is only the second director of the Frank Erwin Center, following Dean Justice, CFE who opened the venue in 1977.

Graham got his start in the arena industry in 1980 as the Events Manager of Assembly Hall (now State Farm Center) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He spent nine years at Assembly Hall, working his way up to Assistant Director and then Associate Director, before moving to Austin to join the Frank Erwin Center as Associate Director in May of 1989. He was then promoted to Director in October of 1990.

During Graham’s 28 year tenure, he was instrumental in bringing world renowned events to the Frank Erwin Center including the first ever WWF (now WWE) event in 1989, which was a sellout with approximately 17,000 fans in attendance, the Davis Cup quarterfinal between the U.S and Spain in 2011, two nights of Paul McCartney’s 2013 “Out There” tour, a project which took approximately two years to come to fruition, and most recently, the iHeartCountry Music Festival, which returns for its fourth year this May.

Please join us in congratulating John on an incredible career!

Wooldridge Recognized as a Meeting Planner to Watch

Leigh Wooldridge was recently recognized as a Meeting Planner to Watch in 2017 by Convention South Media Group. Leigh received this acknowledgement for exhibiting outstanding professionalism, creativity and dedication in the meetings industry. Leigh has been a part of McAllen's Convention Facilities team for a total of 6 years sharing her leadership and industry knowledge with staff and clients. Below is the listing published in Convention South's December 2016 publication.



Leigh Wooldridge, City of McAllen Convention Facilities Department- Event Services Supervisor

From Pig Races to Celebrity Conferences

During 2016, Leigh Wooldridge got to put her creative skills to the test when she helped organize the PalmFest International Folklife Celebration, a two-day festival held on the convention center's campus, which is planned and produced in-house by the facility's staff. The event includes six stages, 40 food vendors, a classic car show, educational exhibits, family games and activities, a carnival and more than over 90 vendors selling handmade goods as well as a Mexican artisan marketplace. This year's attendance was 43,976. "My event days were spent overseeing details that ranged from ensuring the pig races were running smoothly to coordinating a Tracy Lawrence concert and meet and greet," Wooldridge said.

McAllen Convention Facilities Department Receives Marketing Awards



Above: Laurie Pulido, Convention Facilities- Marketing & Special Events Supervisor and Sergio Guzman, Black Koi 360 Design Studio

The City of McAllen- Convention Facilities Department received four marketing awards on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at the 2017 American Advertising Awards Banquet held at the Tower Club in McAllen. The Silver Addy awards were presented for the following:

- McAllen's PalmFest International Folklife Celebration 2016
 - ❖ Cross Platform (Integrated Branded Content Campaign Local and Regional/National)
- The Ballroom at the McAllen Convention Center, Where Forever Begins
 - ❖ Print Advertising (Spread, Multiple page or Insert- Single Unit)
- Light Up the Holidays with McAllen
 - ❖ Print Advertising (Magazine Advertising Campaign)
 - ❖ Sales & Marketing (Collateral Material- Special Event Material)

Credits to Laurie Pulido- Project Leader, Marketing and Lu Gimello- Sr. Designer, Black Koi 360 Design Studio

THE MCALLEN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER RAISES THE BAR IN ITS FIRST 100 DAYS

(McALLEN, March 7, 2017) – Before the first curtain rose at the McAllen Performing Arts Center, city leaders made the people a promise: they would create a state-of-the-art venue through innovation and a focus on, "building our community through the arts." It was a promise that relied heavily on team work and the willingness to develop the city's cultural identity in the performing arts market.

Now in its first 100 days, that vision came through brilliantly thanks to the dedication of its specially selected design team: ERO Architects and Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture, theater consultant Schuler Shook and audio/visual experts at Jaffe Holden Technologies. (Continued, Page 9...)

The fact is: the McAllen Performing Arts Center is indeed off to a strong start. The city outlined big plans for the multi-million dollar performing arts center, which celebrated its grand opening on Nov. 19 and set the stage for Broadway shows, national musical performances, special concerts and innovative arts.

Inside, the main theater's 1,828 seats are designed to give every member of the audience an unobstructed view of the stage with adjustable acoustics and lighting. Throughout the MPAC's 94,000 square footage, guests get to experience productions never-before-seen in the Rio Grande Valley. The MPAC also connects the beautiful McAllen Convention Center to the newly-coined Convention Center District. That area now serves as a haven for shopping, lodging and dining anchored by the dozens of popular restaurants and four brand new hotels.

Link to McAllen PAC pictures: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xzsur4r0v0m8we5/AACHWPfW8KvN4GBsh5aairt_a?dl=0

Prior to opening night, the MPAC kicked off its tenancy with a Community Day open house which included special performances by local dance studio, Mariachis and the unveiling of a bronzed sculpture called the "Vaquero of Nuevo Santander," which stands gallantly on the west lawn of the property.

Community Day also gave guests an exclusive quick-take performance of Jersey Boys which would draw near-sellout crowds during its six show-run in early February.

In its first 100 days, the MPAC has followed through with its promise to provide accessibility to the performing arts through quality experiences. The MPAC is now a vibrant hub for the arts in South Texas and the community is eager to take part.

MPAC 100 day highlights include a sold out:

- Tony Bennett
- Annie
- America
- Mamma Mia
- Moscow Ballet Nutcracker

MPAC 100 Day Fun Facts:

- Number of attendees first 100 days: 66,644
- Plans included enough concrete in the building to build a 4-foot wide sidewalk the equivalent of about XX miles.
- The theater and stage have the volume capacity to accommodate 20 Olympic sized swimming pools.
- The design metaphor for the outside of the theater is a palm tree trunk.
- The mesquite millwork detailing which pays homage to mesquite trees throughout McAllen, as well as "pecky pecan", a nod to the Texas state tree.
- During construction, SpawGlass employed more than 220 workers on the McAllen Performing Arts Center jobsite, equating to \$3,520,000 back to the McAllen community.
- 77 percent of the subcontractors on the McAllen PAC jobsite are local, totaling \$35,108,209 in contracts.

Now with three months under its belt, the McAllen Performing Arts Center has plans to set the stage for plenty more special performances:

The Illusionists, March 12, Adam Trent presented by McAllen Community Concerts, March 15, Jay Leno – 14th Annual RGV Stars Extravaganza, March 16, Ballet San Antonio presented by Rio Grande Valley Ballet, March 17, Marisela, March 18, Greater Tuna, March 19, Portraits of America presented by Rio Grande Valley Ballet, March 31, Romeo and Juliet presented by Valley Symphony Orchestra, April 6, Amanda Miguel & Diego Verdaguer, April 7, Menopause: The Musical, April 19, Shen-Yun, April 21, Paul Anka, April 23, Paloma San Basilio con Raul Di Blasio, April 27, Dirty Dancing, April 29-30, Martin Valverde, May 1, Franco De Vita, May 4, Melba's McAllen Dance Performance, May 6, Esteban Arce, May 12, La Oreja de Van Gogh, May 14, La Doble Moral, May 20, Air Supply, May 21

Smart Financial Centre Executive Chefs Cooks Up Premier Concessions Menu

Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land is not just known for its state-of-the-art facility and prestigious performance lineup, but its flavorful menu items that can be purchased at concessions. The venue presents fresh, flavorful menu items that can be served quickly, so guests won't miss a beat.

Link to pictures in the Houston Chronicle: <http://www.chron.com/life/article/Munch-out-on-lobster-rolls-and-duck-fat-chips-at-10965655.php>

Like other performance venues, Smart Financial Centre hosts a variety of performers who will play straight through with no designated "time out" or intermission, leaving just one hour prior to the show for guests to comfortably order food and beverages. While speed and efficiency are important attributes, Smart Financial Centre's executive chef, Greg King presents a delectable comprise that doesn't sacrifice flavor.

King recently met with *Houston Chronicle* columnist, Ken Hoffman for a special tasting of the concession offerings and discuss their method behind the menu. Keeping the one hour rush in mind, King and his highly-trained staff prepared a menu that offers fresh ingredients with minimal assembly. Hoffman sampled some of the popular items, including the lobster roll with fresh Maine lobster, pretzels with Budweiser beer cheese dipping sauce, Beer Can Chicken Nachos, Duck Fat Kettle Chips – even organic popcorn which King noted they sell about 500-600 boxes per night. He even offers slow-smoked pork belly that he prepares the night before.

As the permanent kitchen nears completion, King and his kitchen staff are currently cooking outdoors behind the venue before heading to the concession areas. Once completed, the space will feature top of the line equipment and will be fully equipped to serve all of the concessions, as well backstage catering needs.

The College Park Center Hosts Winning Men's and Women's Basketball Teams



From the first game to the last, College Park Center at the University of Texas at Arlington, had an exciting basketball season with UTA Mavericks Men's and Women's Basketball teams. The Mavs took three top honors from Sun Belt Conference (SBC), including Coach of the Year and two Player of the Year titles. And, to top it off, both teams are headed to the Sun Belt Championship Tournament.

The Maverick men's team clinched its first Sun Belt title and the third regular season championship in program history after a 24-7 overall and 14-4 conference season. The Lady Mavericks concluded the regular season with a 21-7 overall record and earned the No. 2 seed after a 14-4 conference record.

"We are thrilled to have these athletes compete in our facility. It was a busy, but productive time here at our arena," says College Park Center Director and General Manager, Jeff Davis, CVP, CMP. "In addition to the students, we had thousands of alumni, and local fans cheering on the men's and women's basketball teams."

Scott Cross, the Maverick's head coach was named Joe Gottfried Coach of the Year. He secured his 201st win this season during his 11th year as the Mavericks' head coach. At the same time, Kevin Hervey, UTA junior forward was named Player of the Year and junior guard Erick Neal was named to the SBC second team.

UTA junior guard Cierra Johnson and junior center Rebekah VanDijk both earned major Sun Belt awards. Johnson was named the league's 2016-17 Defensive Player of the Year as well as a selection to the All-SBC second team and VanDijk was named to the All-SBC first team.

"While the CPC staff is looking forward to a number of conference wins by the Mavericks, we are working forward to host the Casting Crowns "The Very Next Thing Tour" and second year home opener for the WNBA Dallas Wings," says Davis.



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Thank you to our newsletter contributors this month!

- Laura Bennett – Frank Erwin Center, University of Texas at Austin
- Kyla Bryant – Verizon Arena
- Alissa Cunningham – Multipurpose Arena Fort Worth
- Justin Grimsley – Arlington Convention Center
- Kim Hillard – INTRUST Bank Arena
- Wanda Huerta – Cintermex International Convention and Exhibition Center
- Katie Jernigan – Dancie Perugini Ware Public Relations
- J. Mark Jarrell – Plano Centre
- Bob Mayer – IAVM Awards Review Task Force Chair
- Millerann Moya – Visit Plano and Plano Centre
- Sarah Nesbit- Eisemann Center for Performing Arts
- Laurie Pulido – City of McAllen Convention Center/ Performing Arts Center
- Brian Stovall – Allen Event Center
- Riley Thomas – SMG Chesapeake Energy Arena/Cox Convention Center
- Lisa Thomason – Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
- Kathy Tinker – Cox Business Center
- Emilio Velez, Jr. – SMG Destination El Paso
- Pamela Fields Webb – UTA Tickets/College Park Center/University of Texas at Arlington
- Kevin Welch – Curtis Culwell Center

Past Region 6 Newsletters: <https://www.iavm.org/regions/region-6-newsletters>