Interested in Volunteering with Region 6?

Have you ever wanted to volunteer for the region? Here’s your opportunity! The Region 6 Board of Directors is currently seeking interest from members who would be willing to serve as State & Country Representatives.

Those who fill these roles would perform the following duties:

- Engage with local/state membership on issues
- Help promote, organize, or engage with local chapter meetings
- Serve as additional source of communication with state/country
- Participate in Region 6 meetings several times per year

Those who are interested in serving should email Region 6 Director Jeff Davis, CVE at jeff.davis@uta.edu to be added to the list of candidates. The Region 6 Board will review interest and appoint for a two year term one representative for each of the following: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico.

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Fair Park Hosts 4th Mega Food Distribution Event

Fair Park in Dallas, TX, recently hosted their 4th mega food distribution with the North Texas Food Bank on August 11, which served over 1,700 families. In total, the 4 events distributed over 547,000 meals to the community.
Oklahoma City Thunder Launches Voting Initiative, Hosts Registration Drives at Chesapeake Energy Arena

NBA’s Oklahoma City Thunder has launched Thunder Vote, a multi-faceted and sustainable initiative to promote voting, with an emphasis on ensuring eligible Oklahoman citizens are registered to vote, educate themselves on candidates and issues, and cast their ballots via in-person or early and mail-in absentee voting.

As part of the program, the Thunder will hold voter registration drives inside Chesapeake Energy Arena every Saturday from September 12 through October 4, leading up to the October 9 deadline to register to vote in the November 3 general election. These non-partisan drives will be open from 10 am – 1 pm and provide citizens with access to computers, printers, postage-paid envelopes, and other resources for them to register to vote and, if they would like, apply for an absentee ballot.

"Voting is an absolute cornerstone of our democracy and the Thunder is proud to help spread the message of the importance of registering and voting," said Christine Berney, Thunder vice president of Community Relations. "Thunder Vote provides citizens with information and resources to help them be fully registered and educated voters. This is a non-partisan initiative to ensure that all eligible citizens in our community have the access and support they need to register, vote and have their voices heard in all federal, state and local elections. This has become a permanent priority of the Thunder organization."

In addition to the arena registration events, Thunder will coordinate with local leaders and organizations to take the register and vote message into neighborhoods throughout the community, with a goal of making the resources and information as accessible as possible. The Thunder corporate offices at the arena will also make voter registration and other voting information available during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm, beginning September 14. Learn more here.

Houston Rockets & Harris County Clerk Announce Toyota Center Will Serve as Vote Center

The Houston Rockets and Harris County Clerk office have announced that Toyota Center will serve as a Vote Center for the 2020 Presidential General Election. Toyota Center will be open to any registered voter in Harris County from Oct. 13-30 and on Election Day, Nov. 3.

“On behalf of the Houston Rockets, and Toyota Center, we are honored to help serve our community by providing a safe and convenient location for Harris County voters in Houston for the upcoming Presidential election,” said Doug Hall, General Manager & Senior Vice President of Toyota Center. “Voting is an extremely important right which many have fought hard for throughout the years and we want to thank the Harris County Clerk office for allowing the Rockets and Toyota Center to offer support.”

In an effort to energize voting interest in the upcoming election, the Rockets and Toyota Center have partnered with I am a voter, a nonpartisan movement which aims to create a cultural shift around voting and civic engagement. More information on I am voter can be found on at iamavoter.com. Fans can text ROCKETS to 26797 to confirm their voter registration status.

For more information about voting or the Toyota Center, visit http://toyotacenter.com.
It's Time for Streaming from Your Theatre

None of us have seen a time like this one. Concert halls and locked theatres around the world stand empty, their idleness mandated by the global pandemic. Artistic and managing directors struggle to predict when and how their venues might open again—and when audiences will feel comfortable enough to sit together in an auditorium to watch a live performance.

Meanwhile, more people are turning to the arts in their own living rooms. Since the pandemic began, the National Theatre’s online YouTube channels attracted more than 10 million views of its streamed shows through the end of May—and while most venues don’t have the star-studded cast that nets such a wide audience, even a fraction of that number could be meaningful and profitable for a smaller company.

It’s time for theatre, music, opera, and dance companies to reach out to this captive audience by streaming performances. The leap from live performance to streaming is not as difficult or costly as you may think. It also may pay for itself in pay-per-view fees and donations.

Read more about streaming from your venue on the Schuler Shook website here.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas Facility Improvements

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas (KBHCCD) has worked on several large projects during the last six months to improve the guest experience. Now that the projects are complete, the KBHCCD is unveiling a new mural, fresh carpeting in the A and B lobbies, and announcing that the KBHCCD received the Global Biorisk Advisory Council’s (GBAC’s) STAR Facility Accreditation.

The first project completed was a new art piece at the garage entrance to the building. KBHCCD staff worked closely with VisitDallas and the City of Dallas to create the artwork. The mural integrates the Dallas skyline, the facility’s namesake, and elements representing Texas throughout the piece. A vibrant work of art will now welcome guests as they enter the building. In addition to making the space brighter, it is also an opportunity for guests to take their group or team photos with a backdrop.

Secondly, the installation of new carpeting in the A and B lobbies refreshed the A-side of the facility. The carpeting was installed over the previous epoxy flooring and will allow meeting planners to place approved floor clings without the concern of damaging the old epoxy. The update also creates a cohesive aesthetic throughout the facility as it matches the carpeting in Lobby F.

Finally, the most significant recent achievement of the KBHCCD is the GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation. The program, created by the International Sanitary Supply Association (ISSA), has specific criteria that consider cleaning, disinfecting, and infectious disease prevention plans when approving accreditations. Additionally, there are requirements in the program to assist facilities in achieving the criteria. Those requirements control risks associated with infectious agents such as SARS-CoV-2, Influenza, MRSA, and TB. Every facet of the program ensures a safe and healthy environment for KBHCCD guests and employees.

The GBAC STAR program is performance-based, and, therefore, KBHCCD personnel are responsible for demonstrating that appropriate cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention procedures are established and implemented. This important accreditation will instill confidence in meeting planners and guests during their visit to the facility over the coming months and years.
Walmart AMP Previews Expanded Facility: New Covered Plaza Named for Choctaw Casino and Resort

While the Walmart AMP has not held concerts this summer due to COVID-19, city officials, expansion partners and members of the media were given the opportunity to preview the recently renovated facility today.

“Construction began on 20|20 expansion project in November 2019, following the final concert of the 2019 season. The project was completed in just seven months during the venue’s off season, in time for what would have been the 2020 concert season. The focus of the project has been to enhance the patron’s experience by creating flexible viewing opportunities and gathering spaces, increasing the number of restrooms and concession windows, and to improve the artist’s experience by expanding the artist wing and loading dock backstage.

The most noticeable change for patrons is the expanded space at the top of the lawn, which includes the Choctaw Plaza, named for Choctaw Casinos & Resorts, the newest 20|20 Expansion Funder announced today. This 12,300 square foot covered plaza space is home to an 80-foot bar and flexible seating area for concert viewing and event rentals. Uncovered plazas, each 1,350 square feet, flank Choctaw Plaza and provide additional restrooms, Tyson concession stands and gathering space. Below the new plaza spaces is an expanded Kraft Heinz Entrance with additional gates and shaded space.

The main gate has also expanded with additional gates and shade for workers and patrons. Between the Kraft Heinz Entrance and the main gate, the venue can now operate up to 12 gates at once, which increases traffic flow into and out of the venue. The main gate opens to the expanded entry plaza, which is double its original size at 19,500 square feet and includes 36 additional restroom stalls and a new Tyson concession stand.

The Procter & Gamble Box Office has expanded from four service windows to seven, and the previous box office, now located inside the venue on the main entry plaza, will serve as an internal box office for seating upgrades or purchasing special offers for upcoming shows.

Backstage, four luxury dressing rooms with private bathrooms bring the venue’s total dressing room count to eight. An artist’s green room, shower room for tour crew and laundry facility were added to better accommodate tour needs. The updated catering kitchen can now serve the expanded dining room of 80, double the original capacity. The loading dock has also been expanded to accommodate six trucks instead of four, allowing faster load in and out.

“None of this would have been possible without our 20|20 Expansion Funders and their commitment to the vision and to our community,” Lane said. “Their support has allowed us to complete this large-scale construction project despite the pandemic, which is truly amazing. Because of this project, the Walmart AMP will be able to remain competitive in the touring industry which will benefit our entire region when tours resume.”

Allied Rep Chuck Rogers Now a Member of BioSaphe Team

Chuck Rogers carries on a nearly 40 year career in the public assembly industry. He has sold and managed teams providing equipment solutions to managed services from concessions to cleaning, security staffing, stages, and more. Chuck is well known for high levels of customer service and has served on numerous committees for IAVM, was a member of the IAVM Board of Directors and a VMS Co-Class President in addition to currently serving on the Region 6 Board.

Chuck Rogers said, “I am thrilled and honored to join the BioSaphe team! This opportunity allows me to pursue a long-time passion for our industry, help facilities save valuable natural resources and improve their playing surfaces. The incredible team Don has assembled is ready to grow and I am honored to play a role in that effort.”
The Wait is Over - Expo Guadalajara Convention Center is Open

The biggest venue in Mexico, Expo Guadalajara Convention Center, ended 171 days of empty halls by hosting two large face-to-face shows September 1-4, 2020.

Intermoda, an annual Apparel and Fashion Show, changed to these dates and 310,000 sq ft of exhibitors from their original dates in July with 465,000 sq ft originally on the books.

Enrique Alfaro, Governor of the State of Jalisco, gave his full support acknowledging the low level of contagions of COVID-19 and the economic impact that the exhibition offers the city. This year, Governor Alfaro expected a contribution of USD $1,100 million to the local economy from meetings and conventions industry.

Also, a group of business leaders produced the Health & Hygiene Expo and this first-time event hosted 75 exhibitors and about 1,500 visitors in two days.

Since Global Exhibition Day, Expo Guadalajara Convention Center has been working on the implementation of new health protocols. Among the new practices are: sanitizing tunnels, temperature control at the entrance of the venue, gel stations, use of masks at all times (including set-up crew), frequent cleaning (restrooms & common areas), disinfecting trucks before entering the property, and steam cleaning every night.

The main entrance was strictly controlled to avoid violating authorized capacity (4,000 people) and to comply with the government regulations of 75 sq ft per person in the halls.

As a means of recovering additional opportunities the last quarter of 2020, Expo Guadalajara Convention Center policy is to work closely with clients to secure their health safety by executing successful events.

Toyota Center Goes Red

On September 1st, like so many other venues across the country, Toyota Center lit the exterior of their building red in solidarity with the live entertainment industry. The nationwide #WeMakeEvents campaign is to bring awareness to event workers and small businesses in the industry who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Toyota Center will continue finding ways to jumpstart the return of live events and look forward to welcoming back fans soon.
The Mabee Center Implements New Safety Measures Amidst Pandemic

In a year of many setbacks for the events industry, the Mabee Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma strives for resilience by implementing new health and safety measures to safely facilitate university functions and other local events. With the guidance of the Tulsa Health Department, CDC, and other agencies, the Mabee Center resumed small and medium sized, socially distanced events this summer. The 11,000-seat arena and other accompanying venues at Oral Roberts University have since hosted over 25 events.

These health and safety measures include:

- Extensive communication of health and safety policy and disclaimers through website and other media
- A mask mandate for all people while indoors
- Seating sections with 6’ between each guest party
- Hand sanitizer dispensers at all doors and high traffic areas
- Altered airflow minimizing the recirculation of air
- Barriers limiting traffic with signage and personnel carefully directing patrons throughout the venue
- Thorough cleaning and sanitization during and between events with UV light stations and EPA registered Peroxide Multi Surface Cleaner and Disinfectant by ECOLAB 3-IN-1 multi-purpose sprayers
- Infographics and other signage on social distancing guidelines and hygienic practices posted in high traffic areas
- Temperature checks at either automatic terminals with facial recognition technology or by hand-held digital infrared scanners

Visit the website here to learn more about the Mabee Center’s increased health and safety protocols for events.

ASM Global Announces Promotion of Industry Veteran Al Rojas

ASM Global, the world’s leading provider of innovative venue services and live experiences, is pleased to announce that Al Rojas has been appointed as the General Manager of the new Oklahoma City Convention Center. With 30 years’ hospitality experience Rojas is an acclaimed industry veteran with in-depth operational, financial, and customer service background. Rojas is the ideal candidate to lead the new Oklahoma City Convention Center to be a premier facility.

The Oklahoma City Convention Center is part of a MAPS3 project budgeted at $288 million and is the largest in city history for a single project. The convention center will feature a 200,000-square-foot exhibit hall with 45,000 square foot of meeting space and a 30,000 square foot ballroom. With the opening of the new Oklahoma City Convention Center slated for early 2021, the center will be a hub for the meetings and events industry.

Previously Rojas has worked in various senior level capacities for American Airlines Center, Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas, and the Jackson Convention Complex.

“It is a very exciting time to be part of the hospitality community in Oklahoma City”, said Al Rojas, General Manager of the OKC Convention Center.

“With an engaged hospitality community and the opening of the new convention center, you can see the city is invested and committed to the meetings industry. I am proud to be part of this modern frontier”.

Bob McClintock, ASM Executive Vice President of Convention Center said, “We are fortunate to have Al accept this leadership position to build an alliance with the local hospitality community, deliver on the brand promise and to provide customers with exceptional service”. 
Toyota Center Hosts Drive-Thru Distribution

Toyota Center hosted a drive-thru food distribution on September 3rd in partnership with the Houston Rockets and Second Servings of Houston that served nearly 1,000 families in need; distributing 28,000 meals, 2,500 boxes of cookies, 2,800 gallons of milk, and 22,000 bags of snacks. The contactless drive-thru event focused on providing take-home chef-prepared family meals to Houstonians that are in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Curtis Culwell Center Seeks to Fill Role of Assistant Box Office Coordinator

The Curtis Culwell Center in Garland, TX seeks an Assistant Box Office Coordinator to interact daily with patrons, provide customer service, and assist Box Office Coordinator. Education qualifications include associate’s degree and minimum of 2 years of related experience, or a bachelor’s degree preferred. Knowledge and skills qualifications include computer-based ticketing, social media, and customer service. For more information, visit the Garland ISD job application page.

Reed Arena Second Level Renovation & University Classrooms

Reed Arena at Texas A&M University recently renovated their 7,351 square foot second level ballroom over the summer. The previous layout featured 4 rooms separated by permanent walls that could not be removed, limiting functionality for the space. Permanent walls were removed and replaced with air walls, as well as updating the room’s lighting and AV capabilities. These changes enable the venue to be separated into a variety of combinations, or even remove all airwalls to create one large ballroom and multipurpose space.

As a result of necessary safety precautions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the university worked with venue staff to utilize the upgraded ballroom space and arena bowl for classrooms. Currently 8 classes are held on the second level and in the arena Monday through Friday during business hours.

The second level can hold up to 90 students socially distanced in the full space without airwalls which, prior to the renovation project, would not have been a possibility due to space constraints.

The lecture set-up in the arena bowl enables a group of students to be socially distanced with the professor teaching courtside, with the presentation viewable via the center-hung scoreboard. Individual seats and every other row are blocked off utilizing Velcro straps to ensure the students are properly spaced out.
New Partnership “Drives” Revenue to Fair Park

Walton Arts Center and the Walmart AMP Launch New Programming

Grammy®-winning singer-songwriter Bonnie Bishop was the first artist to take the stage at Walton Arts Center since programming was suspended in March due to health and safety precautions for COVID-19. Bishop’s rescheduled performance on Thursday, Sept. 10 was moved Baum Walker Hall, allowing for a minimum of four empty seats between parties and every other row to remain empty and serve as walkways to seats reduce contact.

Walton Arts Center and the Walmart AMP have created a template that will allow local event producers to use a similar footprint/set up to host drive-in events at Fair Park, making it more economically feasible for each different producer. This template has led to more than ten new drive-in event bookings for this fall.

Walton Arts Center and the Walmart AMP also launched Saturday Cinema, screenings of classic movies, documentaries and recorded performances on large screens at each venue. While large-scale performances are suspended through the end of 2020 smaller-scale intermission programming, including Saturday Cinema and Bonnie Bishop, is made possible in part by the Ghost Light Recovery Fund.

Walton Arts Center and the Walmart AMP have implemented additional health and safety precautions to protect patrons and staff from the spread of COVID-19. These precautions have been approved by the Arkansas Department of Health. Masks are required and physical distancing will be in place. Cashless concessions will be available.

The Walmart AMP is also giving patrons an opportunity to experience an outdoor happy hour on the new Choctaw Plaza with free live music and cornhole from 4:30-10pm on select nights this fall. Signature cocktails and a full food menu will be available for cashless purchase. Proceeds go to support the Ghost Light Recovery Fund. Local and regional bands will perform from 6-8pm. On evenings with Saturday Cinema screenings*, happy hour will end at 7:30pm. Patrons can purchase a movie ticket and stay for the 8pm show.

“These are really popular bands who are performing for a discounted fee in order to support Walton Arts Center’s Ghost Light Recovery Fund. It gives them a fun gig to play, patrons a safe night out, allows us to showcase the expanded facility and it all supports the relief fund for Walton Arts Center,” said Brian Crowne, vice president of the Walmart AMP.

Entrance is free but capacity is limited, and tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Table reservations open on Monday for that week’s happy hours and close 48 hours prior to each event. 100% of all table reservations will be donated to support Walton Arts Center’s Ghost Light Recovery Fund and are tax deductible and nonrefundable. The Ghost Light Recovery Fund helps Walton Arts Center offset lost revenue from canceled performances, continue education and intermission programming, maintain facilities and support staff until full-scale performances can resume.

Spectra, managers of Fair Park in Dallas, recently partnered with Capricorn Drive In, a group dedicated to cultivating togetherness through live music, art, media, and experiences.

Together they hosted eight drive-in concerts at Fair Park between August 14 and September 5. All eight dates featured Texas-based artists and performers, ranging from hip-hop to rock.

Spectra and Capricorn Drive In have created a template that will allow local event producers to use a similar footprint/set up to host drive-in events at Fair Park, making it more economically feasible for each different producer.

This template has led to more than ten new drive-in event bookings for this fall.
Northwest Arkansas Venues Support Red Alert Campaign

Walton Arts Center and the Walmart AMP joined with event businesses across the country by going red Sept. 1 in support of the #WeMakeEvents campaign.

The Fayetteville Town Center, George’s Majestic Lounge, Faulkner Performing Arts Center, TheatreSquared and The Momentary are just a few of the venues that participated. Other businesses went red as a show of solidarity for the industry as well.

Tulsa’s Cox Business Convention Center Launches Video Production Studio & Hosts Film Crew

Cox Business Convention Center (CBCC), an ASM Global managed facility, has been keeping busy since the early August grand re-opening of the $55 million Vision Tulsa renovation.

The downtown Tulsa venue has been hosting private events and a film crew currently shooting the film “Ida Red.” CBCC’s in-house SAVOR food and beverage team is providing catering and craft services, while the Pepsi Exhibit Hall has been used for props and film scene shoots.

Now, CBCC has created the CBCC Video Production Studio to help businesses and organizations an equipped studio space, inclusive packages, and an experienced technical team.

The studio is located in LEGACY Hall (formerly Assembly Hall) and is now available for booking. The packages provide lights, stage dressing, audio, video, and the ASM Tulsa / CBCC Technical Services team (technical director, audio operator, camera operators).

“Prioritizing safety while understanding the changing dynamics of our industry and continuing to work closely with clients and city partners has been CBCC’s focus in 2020,” said CBCC Assistant General Manager Angie Teel, CMP. “We believe in the value of face-to-face meetings and events, but we also understand many of our clients and Tulsa area businesses have additional event planning demands placed upon them at this time. The CBCC Video Production Studio is a new service we created as one more way we can make meeting and event planning easier.”

To learn more about the video production studio, visit the website here.
Supporting Safety in Reopening Theatres & Venues

Mobiliario has always cared for the comfort, safety and health of people, and during the COVID-19 pandemic it is of extreme importance to contribute advice to venues for attendees to continue to enjoy this great entertainment. Below we have highlighted some key takeaways:

We believe that having an e-ticketing system is mandatory in this age. This way theatre goers and employees will have minimum contact, and the ticket buyers will receive their assigned seat number on their app or device. Tickets should be reserved with row and seat number, with the system blocking certain seats to keep safe distance in the venue. A specific entrance schedule should also be set to avoid a crowd and eliminate potential risk.

After the production or event ends, all seating used must be sanitized using approved products by seating manufacturers. It is also of importance that the seats used in the previous show are not used for the upcoming show in the same day. If you used even numbers at a show, the following show time could utilize odd numbers to ensure social distancing is always in effect.

Seating manufacturers can support venues with seat covers displaying a DO NOT USE message, which is an economical way to work this out. The use of acrylic shields between seats will also enhance the safety of attendees so they will feel more comfortable and willing to come back.

Concessions and food and beverage play an especially important role with specials and promotions. Theatres and venues should always make sure that food served is sanitized and sealed to ensure guests would love to come back to their facility that cares for the safety.

In lobbies and concourses, utilize monitors to show how seats and other items are sanitized instead of just showing trailers and commercials. The impact of the sanitizing process will serve as a great invitation for attendees to spread the word.

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

September 2020

OKC CVB Honors Chris Semrau

The Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau (OKCCVB) recently honored eight Oklahomans and organizations in their 11th annual Hometown Heroes Awards including ASM Global’s own Chris Semrau, General Manager of Chesapeake Energy Arena and Cox Convention Center. The awards honor those who have made a significant impact on OKC’s tourism and hospitality industry.

“We’re excited to honor this deserving group for all the ways they go above and beyond in providing a wonderful visitor experience,” said Carrier. “It takes more than the CVB to promote tourism in Oklahoma City and these individuals and organizations greatly contribute to making OKC a premier destination.”
Caleb Miller Attains CVP Designation

The department of Special Event Facilities at The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) is proud to congratulate Caleb Miller for attaining the Certified Venue Professional (CVP) designation from IAVM this summer. Caleb serves as Director of Production Services for the department, working at the College Park Center and Texas Hall venues. “I’ve been working towards the CVP for the last couple years and am very proud to have attained the designation.” said Caleb.

Prior to joining the team at UTA, Caleb worked at Hot Springs Convention Center and Bank OZK Arena, holding a variety of positions, most recently Manager of Technical Services. Caleb also worked with MP Productions as a production manager. He enjoys music and technology and is a licensed amateur radio operator.

Congrats, Caleb, on this well-deserved accomplishment!

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