



Newsletter

Colorado New Mexico Oklahoma Arkansas Texas Kansas Mexico

August 2019

Save The Date For Region 6 Biennial Conference - Fayetteville - April 2020!



New Avenida Houston Welcome Center, a Gateway to the City



Houston (July 25, 2019) – The most recent addition to [Avenida Houston](#) convention and entertainment campus is the long-awaited [Welcome Center](#) which features three distinct experiences: the city’s official Welcome Center; Launch, a retail outlet; and Avenida Eats, a grab-and-go eatery. Located inside the George R. Brown Convention Center, the new Welcome Center is accessible from the building or the outside plaza. The Welcome Center celebrates its grand opening Friday, July 26, 2019.

Houston First Corporation (HFC) will manage the center to help visitors discover the greater Houston area’s well-known attractions as well as its hidden gems. A knowledgeable staff member can assist visitors with signing up for guided tours, making reservations, or purchasing tickets through the [Marketplace](#) which curates the best of Houston’s cultural attractions and things-to-do into unique experience passes.

[Launch](#) started in Partnership Tower as a temporary retail pop-up during Super Bowl LI to highlight the creations of local designers and artisans. In addition to traditional souvenirs, Launch will provide shoppers with a variety of original products including apparel, handmade jewelry, purses, soaps, teas and much, much more. Relocating to the new Welcome Center will bring additional traffic giving local designers more exposure.

What would a Houston Welcome Center be without food? The onsite eatery, Avenida Eats will give visitors to the Welcome Center a number of affordable and tasty grab-and-go options for food and refreshments. The menu, created by Chef Ed de la Garza was designed for a quick, affordable, but tasty dining experience. Budget conscious families or individuals attending one of the many events inside the George R. Brown, outside on Avenida Plaza, at Discovery Green, or even a game at one of the nearby stadiums won’t have to sacrifice quality for convenience.

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“What a great way to promote our city, our region and our state. We want to make sure all visitors get information that inspires them to explore Houston and experience the amazing things our city has to offer, and we know the new Welcome Center will help us to do that,” said Brenda Bazan, president & CEO Houston First Corporation. “And with nearly 22 million visitors coming to Houston last year, I’m very pleased that we will continue to offer talented local designers an opportunity to showcase their products to the world. It’s the kind of win-win-win the Houston First team prides itself on achieving.”

Tulsa Performing Arts Center enters management agreement with City of Tulsa

City of Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust signed an agreement creating an historic partnership that will allow for the future growth of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center (PAC) while creating an enhanced experience for PAC visitors.



L: Tulsa Mayor GT Bynum R: Tulsa PAC Trust CEO Mark Frie

Starting July 1, the Tulsa PAC will continue to be owned by the City of Tulsa, but under the management of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust, which will be handling the day-to-day operations of the PAC moving forward.

"The management agreement between the City of Tulsa and The PAC Trust is truly a monumental moment in the life of the Performing Arts Center. This agreement will give us the financial stability and operational flexibility to be at the forefront of performing arts in our region," Mark W. Frie, Chief Executive Officer, Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust said. "Over the coming months and years, you will see a greater diversity in programming, a continued focus on making the arts accessible to all citizens of Tulsa through our Orbit program and a focus on an attainable long-range plan for the facility. It's my desire for the PAC to be the synergistic hub of the city where collaboration, creativity, innovation and unity happen on a daily basis."

BRENT BUCHANAN FROM BERRY CENTER AMONG 14 TO EARN DESIGNATIONS AS CERTIFIED VENUE EXECUTIVE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VENUE MANAGERS



14 venue industry professionals received their Certified Venue Executive (CVE) designation from the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) during VenueConnect, the Association’s annual conference and trade show, held in Chicago, Illinois. CVE applicants are rated on their experience and accomplishments in public venue management and must successfully complete a comprehensive written essay, written examination and oral interview that tests general knowledge of the public venue management profession. The CVE designation demonstrates that a venue executive: is a skilled manager, is committed to the industry, and is pledged to continued professional growth and development. Managers who earn the CVE designation are recognized, by those inside and outside the industry, as experts in their profession.

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IAVM's Board Chair, Michael Marion, CVE, said, "Since 1976 this prestigious program has served as a distinction for those in venue management. I would like to offer my congratulations to each of these individuals. There is no doubt that their hard work and leadership are admired in the industry."

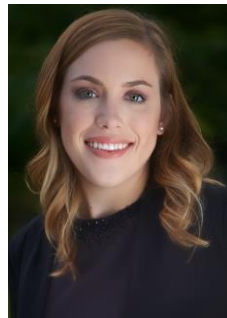
Brent who has been with Berry Center since 2008 is among the 14 venue management professionals to be awarded a CVE this year. "With over 22 years in the industry, our organization is extremely lucky to have such a dedicated, highly trained and well regarded individual in a leadership role," says Beth Wade, CVE. The CVE designation is an indication of demonstrated skill in leadership, activity in community affairs and expertise in management of public venues. The elite group of 312 now includes the following newly awarded CVEs to its honor roll:

- Brent Buchanan, CVE, Berry Center (Houston, TX)
- Lynn Cannon, CVE, Grossinger Motors Arena (Bloomington, IL)
- Brendon Ellmer, CVE, Perth Concert Hall/WA Venues & Events (Perth, Western Australia)
- Bobby Goldwater, CVE, Georgetown University/The Goldwater Group (Bethesda, MD)
- Eric Granger, CVE, KFC Yum! Center (Louisville, KY)
- Kristie Haney, CVE, Resch Center (Green Bay, WI)
- Michael Junod, CVE, University Center, Mercer University (Macon, GA)
- Laura Lenhart, CVE, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (Milwaukee, WI)
- Timothy Long, CVE, Hawkrigde Entertainment Services (Dural, New South Wales)
- Brett C. Mitchell, CVE, Overland Park Convention Center (Overland Park, KS)
- Lynda Reinhart, CVE, Stephen C. O'Connell Center (Gainesville, FL)
- Wendy Riggs, CVE, Walton Arts Center/Walmart AMP (Fayetteville, AR)
- Marty D. Smith, CVE, Weber County Culture, Parks, and Recreation (Ogden, UT)
- Philip Verrastro, CVE, The Classic Center (Athens, GA)

College Park Center/Texas Hall Welcome New Staff



Kelsch



Delware

UT Arlington welcomes two new staff to the event services team at College Park Center and Texas Hall. Jacqueline "Nicki" Kelsch joins the Department of Special Event Facilities as the new Director of Event Services. "When interviewing Nicki, we immediately saw her passion for the industry and knew this position would be a great opportunity for her to take the next step in her career," comments Jeff Davis, CVE, executive director of College Park Center and Texas Hall. "This is a new position in our organization, and we're excited to have Nicki onboard to help further develop our event services team." In her role, Nicki will oversee a team of event services professionals coordinating events both the arena and performing arts venues.

"Along with a new director, we're also excited to have Courtney Delaware join our team as an event manager," comments Jeff. Courtney's background includes over four year with the Fort Worth Zoo planning special events and prior experience in the hospitality industry. "With our recent additions, we have a dynamic event services team, ready to exceed the expectations of our clients and set a new benchmark for service levels," adds Jeff.

College Park Center/Texas Hall Seeks Operations Manager

The Department of Special Event Facilities at UT Arlington seeks a dynamic individual to join the team as an Operations Manager. The ideal candidate will have at least three years of experience in a multi-purpose venue and ready to take a step into mid-level management. The Facility Operations Manager assists the Director of Facility Operations in providing leadership and direction for the operations and back-of-house teams in College Park Center and Texas Hall, ensuring safety and quality of venue setups by coordinating, overseeing and participating in facility changeovers. This position is responsible for participating with other managers in scheduling, planning and supervising venue setups and conversions, maintenance projects and general housekeeping for events and venue operations. Initial screening of applicants will begin August 15. For a full job description and to apply, visit: <https://uta.peopleadmin.com/postings/9797>

FOUR MORE YEARS!



Denver Arts & Venues within the City and County of Denver operates some of Colorado's highest-profile facilities including Red Rocks Amphitheatre, the Denver Performing Arts Complex, Colorado Convention Center, McNichols Civic Center Building and Denver Coliseum. Arts & Venues also oversees Denver's public art program, economic development programs including Create Denver, literacy programs such as Youth One Book, One Denver, and entertainment and cultural events such as the Five Points Jazz Festival. All City and County of Denver agency director positions are appointed by the mayor. When Mayor Michael B. Hancock was officially inaugurated on July 15, Ginger White Brunetti's appointment as Arts & Venues agency director was confirmed for the next four years. Congratulations Ginger! More information about Arts & Venues: artsandvenuesdenver.com.

Curtis Culwell Center Event Coordinator Position Available

The CCC is seeking a motivated industry professional to fill an open position of Event Coordinator. The role is responsible for the proper planning, staffing, and execution of a variety of events hosted in the arena and conference center space. The candidate must be well organized and have the ability to interface with event planners. A bachelor's degree or equivalent experience relevant to the position is required. If interested, please send resumes to Kim Marriott, Assistant Director (KMarriott@garlandisd.net).

Back to Back Sold Out Events at the Curtis Culwell Center



Tony Robbins hosted his Unleash the Power Within Conference over four straight days at the Curtis Culwell Center. The event sold out three weeks in advance as over 31,000 people from around the world made their way to Garland. Day one of the event culminated in a late-night fire walk seeing every attendee walk barefoot across hot coals. The weekend continued to burn hot with four consecutive 12+ hour days of content.

The following week, Rachel Hollis hosted the RISE Weekend which sold out two hours after going on sale. A crowd of almost 20,000 were motivated for the three-day conference. The CCC team was proud to pull off two incredible events in back-to-back weeks. The surrounding community enjoyed sold out hotel rooms, full dining rooms at restaurants, and an economic boom to local shops.

Region 6 Business Meeting Wrap Up Summary - Chicago

The Region 6 business meeting hosted in Chicago at Venue Connect had substantial attendance with approximately 78 attendees.

During the meeting, the membership voted to make the Future Leaders Conference an official Region 6 event, with the Region taking on the financial risk of the program instead of the host venue. This conference will occur in odd-numbered years, whereas the Region Biennial Conference occurs in even-numbered years. The Future Leaders Conference has been a successful program in both previous outings bringing in thousands of dollars for the Region, of which a substantial amount has gone back in the form of stipends for professionals to attend the Region 6 Biennial Conference.

It was reported that Region 6 funded two Roy Saunders/Rodney Smith Memorial Scholarships for Venue Management School in Tampa Bay, Florida. Recipients were Sarah Kate Rogers and Kevin Murphy, both of SMG Tulsa-BOK Center, and were awarded \$2,435.00 each for lodging, tuition and meal costs. The third scholarship, the Graduate Institute Scholarship went unfunded as we had no applicants apply in 2019. Region 6 has supported the education of new and current region leaders by offering VMS scholarships for over 25 years.

The next Region 6 Biennial Conference will take place in Fayetteville, Arkansas and the planning committee is already hard at work. There are some exciting receptions planned, great educational topics in the works and the sponsorship committee has already received generous contributions.

A call was made for host venues to step forward if you are interested in hosting either the 2021 Future Leaders Conference or the 2022 Region 6 Biennial Conference. Those who are interested in possibly hosting should make themselves known by contacting Region Director, Jeff Davis at jeff.davis@uta.edu for more information.

The Region was well represented at VenueConnect and we hope to see you all at the Region 6 Biennial Conference in Fayetteville, AR April 5-8, 2020!

Region 6 Peeps Attending 2019 VenueConnect Enjoy White Sox Game



A few members of Region 6 took in a White Sox game while at VenueConnect. The Sox beat the Miami Marlins 9-1. FRONT: Caleb Miller, UTA Special Event Facilities; Jeff Davis, CVE, CVP, CMP, UTA Special Event Facilities; Graeme Bice, AT&T Performing Arts Center; Julie Bice. MIDDLE: Tim Seeberg, Fort Smith Convention Center; Nick Zazal, CVP, Walton Arts Center/Walmart AMP; Sallie Zazal, Kyle May, Walton Arts Center/Walmart AMP. BACK: Cindy Harper, United Supermarkets Arena; Meredith Imes, United Supermarkets Arena, Kent Meredith, CVE, United Supermarkets Arena; Blake Groves, Texas Tech University; Megan Escobar, United Supermarkets Arena. MIA: Bob Reykers, Fort Smith Convention Center

Industry Affairs Committee Updates **From the 86th Session of the Texas Legislature**

The 86th Session was a very detrimental for local control and Municipalities. Thankfully no Bathroom or Heartbeat bills, but some legislation that will really affect how cities do business. Some things we should keep on our radar:

SB 2 Property Tax Reform, to say it briefly it caps what a city can earn in revue from property tax. The bill lowers the city property tax rollback rate (now called the “voter-approval rate) to 3.5 percent, with an automatic election required to exceed that percentage. The bill includes some concessions, such as allowing for three-year “banking” of any unused rollback increment and a guaranteed \$500,000 levy increase threshold for most cities under 30,000 population.

One way to put S.B. 2 into perspective is to consider that the state budget passed this session will grow state general revenues, supported by state taxes, by at least 9.5 percent more than the budget passed two years ago (and perhaps higher, depending on how the numbers are calculated). No vote of the people was held to sanction that growth, yet cities must take increases over 3.5 percent to their voters. Lowering the current 8 percent revenue cap (rollback rate), which limits increases in a cities or county’s overall property tax levy, will restrict counties from providing the efficient and effective government services that taxpayers desire. The locally administered and collected property tax is the primary tool counties have to pay for federal and state government mandates. Local property taxes also pay for other discretionary local services expected and demanded by homeowners, business and other residents. These discretionary services, such as law enforcement patrols, parks, libraries, and city supported venues that directly impact the quality of life that Texans enjoy. Lower revenue caps are a one-size-fits-all approach based on the faulty assumption that the need for services is steady from year-to-year. Local revenue needs often spike above or below proposed revenue limits. These spikes are caused by numerous factors such as local growth spurts, declining local or regional economics, receipts of – or reduction in – federal grants, new or modified state and federal mandates, and natural disasters or homeland security breaches. City and County budgets should mirror the needs of the community. City and County officials are best positioned to understand community needs and should be given the flexibility to address those needs. This flexibility is the heart of the idea of local control, which is an essential element of governing in Texas. SB2 requires many cities, counties, school districts and other taxing units to hold an election if they wish to raise 3.5% more property tax revenue than the previous year. The growth rate excludes taxes levied on new construction and can be averaged over three years, allowing taxing units to exceed the 3.5% threshold in some of them. Municipal officials have repeatedly said the 3.5% election trigger will hamstring their budgets and hamper their ability to provide public safety and other local services. Moody’s Investors Service, a credit-rating agency, issued a May analysis that said the law would lead to “minimal” homeowner savings and “hurt local governments substantially.” Anyone receiving funding from a city or local government authority be aware they will be slashing budgets just to keep paying Fire and Police.

H.B. 2164 (Burns/Hughes)–Peace Officer Weapons: provides that a public assemble facility cannot prohibit or restrict a peace office from carrying their weapon within the facility.

H.B. 1177 (Phelan/Bettencourt) – Carrying Handguns during Disaster: provides allowances for a citizen to carry to carry a gun into a Shelter.

HB 1177: provides that: (1) a person, regardless of whether he or she holds a license, may carry a handgun if: (a) the person carries the handgun while evacuating from an area following the declaration of a state or local disaster with respect to that area or reentering that area following the person’s evacuation; (b) not more than 168 hours have elapsed since the state of disaster was declared, or more than 168 hours have elapsed since the time the declaration was made and the governor has extended the period during which a person may carry a handgun under the bill; and (c) the person is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm; (2) a person may carry a handgun, regardless of whether the handgun is concealed or carried in a shoulder or belt holster, on the premises of a location operating as an emergency shelter in a location listed in (3), below, during a declared local or state disaster if the owner, controller, or operator of the premises or a person acting with apparent authority authorizes the carrying of the handgun, the person carrying the handgun complies with any rules and regulations of the owner, controller, or operator of the premises, and the person is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm; and (3) regardless of any state law prohibition, a person may carry, with the consent of the owner, et al., required by (2), above, on the premises of a school or educational institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school or educational institution, on the premises of a polling place on the day of an election or while early voting is in progress, on the premises of any government court or offices utilized by the court, on the premises of a racetrack, on the premises of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, on the premises of a business that has a **permit or license issued by the Alcoholic Beverage Code**, in an amusement park, or on the premises of a church, synagogue, or other established place of religious worship. (Effective September 1, 2019.)

Questions? Comments? Just want to chat about all this? Call Russell Read C.V.E, C.M.P. anytime. 214-577-2226

Chesapeake Energy Arena Helps Promote Oklahoma City's Big 3 Date at Jammin' Hoops



Chesapeake Energy Arena worked with Oklahoma City Police Department to promote Oklahoma City's Big 3 date at their Jammin' Hoops program on July 11, 2019. Jammin' Hoops is a community program through the OKC PD to keep kids off the street and teach them character through the sport of basketball. At the end of the night, kids are rewarded based on character points they earned through teamwork and good sportsmanship. An estimated 250 kids, volunteers, officers, and parents were in attendance for the event.

SMG and Savor donated hamburgers, chips, and drinks for attendees to enjoy throughout the night. A DJ gave special shout-outs to the Arena about the food and promoted the Big 3 event. We also asked attendees to sign a welcome banner that will be hung in the loading dock area on the day of the event.

Chesapeake Energy Arena worked with the Big 3 Gives Back program to provide participating kids with a special wristband, which can be redeemed for two tickets to the event. Shelby Love with Fox 25 attended the event and featured two live shots in the 5 pm news, with extra footage being aired during the 6 pm news, talking about Big 3 and the special donation.

Walton Arts Center VP of Operations Earns Venue Executive Certification from the International Association of Venue Managers



Wendy Riggs, vice president of operations with [Walton Arts Center](#) is one of only 14 venue industry professionals who earned the Certified Venue Executive designation this year.

Riggs was recognized for her accomplishment during the International Association of Venue Managers' VenueConnect annual conference and trade show in Chicago last month.

CVE applicants are rated on their experience and accomplishments in public venue management and must successfully complete a comprehensive written essay, written examination and oral interview that tests general knowledge of the public venue management profession. The CVE designation is an indication of demonstrated skill in leadership, activity in community affairs and expertise in management of public venues. Riggs has joined the elite group of 312 industry professionals who have earned the certification.

Downloadable photos: [New Hire & Awards Dropbox](#)

Walton Arts Center Venues Receive IAVM Venue Excellence Award



Downloadable photos: [IAVM Dropbox](#)

The International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) awarded [Walton Arts Center](#) and the [Walmart AMP](#) a 2019 Venue Excellence Award during the Venue Industry Award luncheon today at the 94th annual *VenueConnect* conference in Chicago.

The Venue Excellence Award annually recognizes five venues of any type that have demonstrated excellence and innovation in operation and management of public assembly venues within the last calendar year. IAVM takes pride in its members and member venues that excel in providing their communities with a safe and enjoyable space for all types of events and educational opportunities.

The criteria for the award includes service to the community, team building/professional development, safety and security and operational excellence. The criteria used to evaluate the venues are at the core of IAVM's mission and are key components to the success and vitality of the venue industry. A committee of industry leaders chose the finalists for each venue type and winners were approved by the IAVM Board of Directors.

"The Venue Excellence Award recognizes the commitment of our team to bring world-class performing arts experiences to Northwest Arkansas," said Peter B. Lane, president and CEO of Walton Arts Center. "I am proud of the positive impact that our venues and employees have on our community, and excited that we've been recognized with prestigious national award."

The four other 2019 Venue Excellence Award winners include: U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minn.; State Farm Arena in Atlanta; Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu and Tacoma Venues & Events in Tacoma, Wash.

Bradford Joins Walton Arts Center as Production Scheduling Assistant



Taylor Bradford has joined [Walton Arts Center](#) as a production scheduling assistant. In her new position, Bradford will manage the work schedules of local stage crew, maintain operational details in the departmental calendar and facilitate check-in for local crew at Walton Arts Center and Walmart AMP.

Bradford graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Most recently, Taylor worked as a production associate for the Cotton Club Variety Show helping with auditions, rehearsals and preparation for the production. She has also worked for EmpowerME as the production associate and secretary.

JMBLYA Expands Music Festival to Northwest Arkansas

Lineup Features Juice Wrld, Playboi Carti, DaBaby, Murda Beatz, and More



Downloadable photos: [JMBLYA Dropbox](#)

The wildly popular Texas-based music festival, JMBLYA, is expanding outside of Texas and coming to the [Walmart AMP](#) on Saturday, Oct. 5 as part of the Cox Concert Series. The inaugural JMBLYA Arkansas includes performances by Juice Wrld, Playboi Carti, DaBaby, Murda Beatz, Lil Keed and OMB Peezy.

Over the past seven years, JMBLYA has become one of the most popular music festival destinations in the country and the premier hip-hop festival in Texas with its unique multi-day, multi-city traveling hip-hop festival format. The festival regularly plays host to back-to-back events in Dallas and Austin each May that include upwards of 30,000 attendees across each sold-out day. Past JMBLYA TX lineups have included artists such as Travis Scott, J. Cole, Chance The Rapper, Lil Wayne, Future, Post Malone, Migos, Young Thug, Kevin Gates, Lil Uzi Vert and more.

Keeping with the tradition of its Texas stops that will continue for an eighth consecutive year in 2020, the new JMBLYA Arkansas will offer Northwest Arkansas residents a carefully curated lineup that blends some of today's biggest national hip-hop artists alongside exciting up-and-comers.

Walton Arts Center Hosting Tech Rehearsals for Blue Man Group's Newest Touring Production



Downloadable photos: [Blue Man Group Dropbox](#).

Blue Man Group's newest production, *Speechless*, is being developed at Walton Arts Center, and the national tour kicks off in Northwest Arkansas with 11 performances Sept. 10-19, 2019.

Preview performances will be 7 pm Tuesday, Sept. 10 and Wednesday, Sept. 11. Preview performances are an exciting opportunity to see the show before it is finalized and premieres to the public. Audiences can get in on the action because their reactions throughout the performance will help refine the show.

Under the helm of visionary director Jenny Koons, in her first-time collaboration with Blue Man Group, the world-renowned bald and blue trio embark on a fresh journey of discovery through this tour, the result of more than 27 years spent observing humanity. *Speechless* will feature new and original compositions, invented instruments and unexpected situations alongside iconic Blue Man Group moments based in joy, art, music, comedy, social commentary and profound absurdity.

"It's Blue Man Group's continued commitment to push boundaries, and think bigger and bolder with every new exploration, that excites me most about this opportunity, and I'm thrilled to join the Blue Man Group family to undertake this new show," Koons said. "*Speechless* will feature material that fosters communal moments, debut the evolution of our tube-based instruments to support all new music, and include large-scale audience participation. It is my hope that this show will deliver on its name and continue Blue Man Group's legacy to transcend words and inspire audiences through non-verbal connections."

This is Blue Man Group's second national tour to tech and launch from Walton Arts Center. The last tour launched in September 2010.

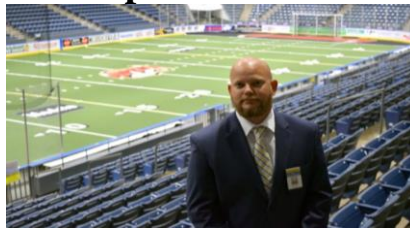
Chesapeake Energy Arena and Cox Convention Center Seeking Marketing Manager

Oklahoma City has an immediate opening for a full-time Marketing Manager for Chesapeake Energy Arena and Cox Convention Center.

This position will work within the Marketing department to build creative campaigns and promotions, oversee digital marketing, place media buys and advertisements, and support all efforts to boost events and revenue. Experience in the industry and Ticketmaster systems is preferred.

For any questions on the position, contact Lucy Albers, Director of Marketing, at lalbers@smgokc.com. To apply: <https://recruiting.adp.com/srccar/public/RTI.home?c=1152751&d=ExternalCareerSite&r=5000520212306&fromPublish=true#/>

Amarillo Civic Center Complex Welcomes New Event Supervisor



Derek Hisek is a native of South Dakota. He received his B.S. in Communication Studies from South Dakota State University and his MFA from the University of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program. After seven years as the Production Technical Director at Iowa State University, Derek and his wife Callie, moved to Amarillo, where he joined the Amarillo Civic Center Complex and his wife joined the faculty of the West Texas A&M University Department of Music Theatre and Dance. Derek and Callie recently welcomed their first child, Jake, on July 29th.

Frank Erwin Center Names New Assistant Directors

The Frank Erwin Center is pleased to announce four new Assistant Directors. All four are current outstanding employees and together they have a combination of 87 years of experience at the Frank Erwin Center. All have held other positions during their tenures.

"It's been an honor to work with each person and to see them grow in their careers. I know each will flourish in their new role and I'm thankful for their countless contributions," said Jimmy Earl, Director for the Frank Erwin Center.

Buzz Huber – Assistant Director for Operations

As Assistant Director for Operations, Huber will oversee operations for the facility including the departments for events, stage and sound, conversion and housekeeping, building monitors and security. Previously, he held the title Events Manager.

Steve McBride – Assistant Director for Maintenance

As Assistant Director for Maintenance, McBride will oversee maintenance of the facility including electronic signage and electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems. Previously, he held the title Maintenance Manager.

Christine Scott-Laakso – Assistant Director for Ticketing, Event Planning and Settlement

As Assistant Director for Ticketing, Event Planning and Settlement, Scott-Laakso will oversee ticketing, event creation and settlement. Previously, she held the title of Box Office Manager.

Anna Wong – Assistant Director for Marketing and Sales

As Assistant Director for Marketing and Sales, Wong will oversee all marketing, sales and communications. Previously, she held the title Communications and Marketing Manager.

The Frank Erwin Center, which celebrated its 40th Anniversary in November 2017, has served Central Texans with some of the best in live entertainment. The multi-purpose facility, located on The University of Texas at Austin campus, hosts a variety of events including concerts, theatrical performances, family shows and sporting events. It also serves as the home court for the Texas Longhorns Men's and Women's basketball teams.

United Supermarkets Arena With Texas Tech University Seeking Managing Director

This position is responsible for the overall operations of the United Supermarkets Arena, a 15,000 seat multi-purpose arena on the campus of Texas Tech University. The United Supermarkets Arena is home to the Texas Tech men's and women's basketball teams and the women's volleyball team. The arena also hosts concerts, touring shows, commencements and other special events.

The complete job listing and link to the Human Resources website:

https://sjobs.brassring.com/TGnewUI/Search/Home/Home?partnerid=25898&siteid=5635#jobDetails=455182_5635

El Paso Remains Strong



On the morning of Saturday, August 3, a shooter opened fire in a busy parking lot, then continued his deadly rampage inside a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas. Twenty-two people were killed and 25 were injured, impacting a total of 47 individuals.

A family reunification center was set up at a nearby public school for people who were separated from their loved ones in the hours after the shooting. It also became the place where many found out a loved one was killed or wounded.

On Monday afternoon on August 5, officials from the El Paso City-County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Red Cross, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) met with the management team at Destination El Paso (DEP) who conducted a walk-through of the **El Paso Convention Center** in consideration of relocating the family reunification center (renamed the family assistance center) from the school to the SMG venue. To transfer the center in such a short period of time required the DEP staff to spring into action.

“The Destination El Paso staff pulled together and worked hard throughout the night to make the transition happen quickly. On Tuesday morning at 10 a.m., the family assistance center was open at the El Paso Convention Center, offering help and needed support and services for the people who were impacted by the tragedy. It was truly a team effort,” said Trudy Sweeten, Assistant General Manager of DEP/El Paso Live.

The FAC (at the time of this writing) is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and provides services such as: counseling and spiritual care, healthcare and travel assistance, financial and legal support, a government assistance program, temporary IDs and driver's licenses, documentation for Mexican Nationals, on-site child care, translation services, Social Security card replacement, vital statistics, comfort dogs and more.

In addition to the FAC, a Community Memorial Service is scheduled on Wednesday, August 14 at 7 p.m. at the downtown Southwest University Park to reflect and remember the victims of the mass shooting and to offer healing and support for the community. The service also will be simulcast live at the nearby **Abraham Chavez Theatre**.

Bryan Crowe, General Manager of DEP said, “In times of great need our venues have been activated to support the communities of Houston, New Orleans, and even our own here in El Paso. Our employees once again have been asked to help support those in need, the victims of this unspeakable act. I am thankful to each member of the DEP team for the support they are providing to our community during this difficult time.”

Donations can be made to the **Paso Del Norte Community Foundation El Paso Victims Relief Fund** at <https://pdnfoundation.org> and the **El Paso Community Foundation Victims Fund** at epcf.org/victims.

SMG-DESTINATION EL PASO SEEKS TO FILL VARIOUS POSITIONS

SMG, the leader in privately managed public assembly facilities has an immediate opening for the following positions at Destination El Paso, featuring nationally recognized venues including: El Paso Convention Center, Abraham Chavez Theatre, Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre, McKelligon Canyon and Pavilion.

Director of Convention Development

Position Summary: The Director of Convention Development manages and leads convention sales and services, convention marketing and communications. Responsible for identifying market opportunities; developing long and short-term marketing and sales strategies and development of training programs for staff with the objective of attracting conventions, meetings, and events securing hotel room nights.

Education and Experience: Bachelor's Degree, 5 years of Hospitality and Tourism industry sales management experience, 5 years of supervisory experience and Certified Meeting Planner certification desired. Ability to adjust work schedule to coincide with events and travel up to 20%.

Production Manager

Position Summary: Under general supervision, the Production Manager is responsible for establishing the technical requirements, equipment, and manpower requirements (client labor requirements) to service events at Judson F. Williams Convention Center, Abraham Chavez Theatre, Plaza Theatre, Performing Arts Centre, Arts Festival Plaza, Cohen Stadium, and McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre and Pavilion, collectively the El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Centers ("EPCPAC"). This is a working Production Manager position.

Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree required or equivalent combination of experience and education, 2 years related supervisory experience, Knowledge of Microsoft Office and familiarity with Computer Aided Design Software and ETCP Rigging Certification preferred.

Director of Event Services and Facility Sales

Position Summary: Under general supervision of the Assistant General Manager, direct and coordinate personnel, subcontractors and daily activities involved in the successful execution of events. Provides professional client services and support in the planning, organization and management of all events within the venues, and monitors the logistics of these events. Directs the establishment, implementation, and monitoring of all facilities sales. Prepares monthly forecasts and reports and manages preparation of special projects as assigned by management.

Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree from accredited four-year college or university in hospitality, business or related field preferred, Three to five (3-5) years of increasingly responsible experience in event management in a convention center or public assembly facility setting, Customer service experience is required, Sales experience is required, Food and Beverage Knowledge desirable, CMP certification desirable.

For the complete job descriptions or to apply, visit: <http://www.elpasolive.com/contact/jobs> or contact Emilio Velez, Human Resources Manager at: EVelez@destinationelpaso.com

B.B.F.N! Bye-bye for now!



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Thank you newsletter contributors this month!

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