



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VENUE MANAGERS REGION 5

## JUNE 2022 Newsletter

### EDITOR'S NOTE

*Our May Newsletter recognized the recipients of the 30|UNDER|30 Class of 2022 from Region 5. It was brought to our attention that a name was mistakenly left off the list so we would like to recognize Emma Schenkenberger from Ungerboeck for being selected as part of the 30|UNDER|30 Class of 2022. Congratulations, Emma!*

### VENUE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL 2022

Did you attend VMS 2022?

We want to hear your stories! Please send any pictures, lessons learned, or testimonies from your experience at VMS. They may be included in our next special edition: "VMS 2022 Region 5 Recap!"

Send to [iavmr5@gmail.com](mailto:iavmr5@gmail.com). Note that all submissions are subject to appear in any future IAVM newsletter.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR** - Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority - Charlotte, NC

[Click to Apply](#)

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER** - Miami Beach Convention Center - Miami Beach, FL

[Click to Apply](#)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Region 5 is looking for volunteers for the Membership and Young Professionals Committees.**

**Membership Committee** -- This committee works to represent the interest of general membership constituents relative to recruitment, retention, and membership value through programs, networking opportunities and other services designed to assist industry professionals. Creative methods to increase membership through membership campaigns or other means is expected. The Membership Committee meets regularly via conference call.

**Young Professionals Committee** -- This committee works with the Region 5 Board to act as a think tank for new and emerging trends in communications, social media, technology and membership. A majority of the members of this committee must be 30 years of age or under. The Young Professionals Committee

meets regularly via conference call.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Carol Moore at [carol@newnancentre.com](mailto:carol@newnancentre.com).

## UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING



Please join us in Charlotte for an IAVM Charlotte-Chapter Meeting on **Wednesday, August 3, 2022** at the Charlotte Convention Center.

### HOSTED BY



BOJANGLES ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX / CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER  
CHARLOTTE FILM / NASCAR HALL OF FAME / SPECTRUM CENTER / VISIT CHARLOTTE



BOJANGLES ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX



CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER



SPECTRUM CENTER

**Register Here!**

## INTERESTED IN HOSTING A CHAPTER MEETING?

Chapter meetings are a great way to network with industry peers in your local area as well as provide beneficial education opportunities. Chapter meetings can be as small as a luncheon or networking after-hours social to a full day of sessions.

Never planned a chapter meeting? No worries, your Region 5 Chapter Meeting Committee is here to help you through the process and provide resources to help you plan a successful meeting.

If you want to get started please reach out to your Region 5 Chapter Committee Chair, Bryan Miller, at [bmiller@vbgov.com](mailto:bmiller@vbgov.com).

**IAVM REGION 5 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

## HELP US INCREASE OUR REGION 5 MEMBERSHIP BEFORE VENUE CONNECT 2023

MEMBER WHO REFERS THE MOST APPLICANTS  
BEFORE VENUE CONNECT WILL WIN A  
**\$500 PRIZE!**



**STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!!**

## NEWS & VENUE UPDATES



### **Robert Rose, CVE, to Receive Convention Center Lifetime Achievement Award at VenueConnect**

His public assembly venue background spans working in stadiums, arenas, and convention centers, but it is the latter for which Robert Rose, CVE, will be recognized at VenueConnect in Phoenix when he receives the Convention Center Lifetime Achievement Award. The retired IAVM member is most recognized with the Tampa Convention Center where he retired after 22 years with myriad titles including Event Operations Manager/Chief Operating Officer/Convention Facilities Director.

“Jim Finch called me and told me about the award and I said, ‘What!’” Rose recalled. “I can’t believe it and the next thought was, ‘Are you kidding me?’”

That answer would be a resounding no for a respected industry professional who dedicated so much of his career for the good of the profession as well as the convention center sector.

“I know the people that have been blessed to have the award over the years,” Rose said. “I was flabbergasted because I know all of the committee work, board work, and regional work and all those things that they’ve done in their career and running the buildings.”

Indeed, Rose is intimate in knowing what it takes to receive such a prestigious honor. He previously served on the committee that identified candidates to receive the award.

“We had a great group of people that were helping with trying to find the best possible candidates,” he said. “There were some extremely qualified people that were being considered and we were so blessed to over time be able to fit almost everybody in to receive the award. It’s a wonderful award for anyone to be recognized in that manner.”



Rose noted the irony that last year's recipient, Barry Strafacci, is also synonymous with the Tampa/St. Petersburg area.

"Barry has helped me in so many ways," Rose said. "He is actually in the same county in which I live. He has been on a number of the (IAVM) committees and when I saw he had gotten the award I was so thankful. He's really worked so hard for the association."

The same is true of Rose, who became an IAVM member in 1978. He has participated on numerous committees including Convention Center, Research, Benchmark Advisory, and Membership. He has also chaired the Region 5 Officers and earned his Certified Venue Executive designation in 2004.

"I had to learn from scratch because I came from a parks and recreation background in 1978 and had an assistant at that facility in Allen Park, Michigan, who said I needed to be involved with (then) IAAM," Rose said. "It was a brand-new job and they had never had anybody who had run their facilities. It was a civic arena that was an ice arena, primarily, but we did special events and that's where I was learning about that part of the business and what to do with them."

From there, Rose went to the Stephen C. O'Connell Center on the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he learned from one of the very best in Lionel Dubay during his five-year stay.

"One of my favorite things about Lionel is he wants you to grow," Rose said. "He loves to have his interns and all of his staff learn about the business. He's very generous that way and taught me so much."

With Florida roots planted, Rose headed south to work at the Florida Suncoast Dome/ThunderDome/Tropicana Field, then Director of Event Services & Bookings with the MLB Tampa Bay Rays before setting sail on a long and distinguished career at the Tampa Convention Center.

"Early on, even in the late 70's and then probably my first conference in the early 80's, people made me feel so welcome," Rose said. "It was my first conference and here I am talking to people running the association ... a young kid and didn't know much of anything at that point and talking to the president of the association about the business and the characteristics we should have to honor the industry and do the right thing.

"Those are the kinds of moments you have to have to really help you to look back and say I'm so glad I did all these things and learned from all these people. Receiving this award is definitely a humbling experience because I don't know that I feel that I have had enough of a career to even receive such an honor. But I'm very blessed someone must have felt that I was definitely someone they wanted to recognize which makes me feel wonderful."

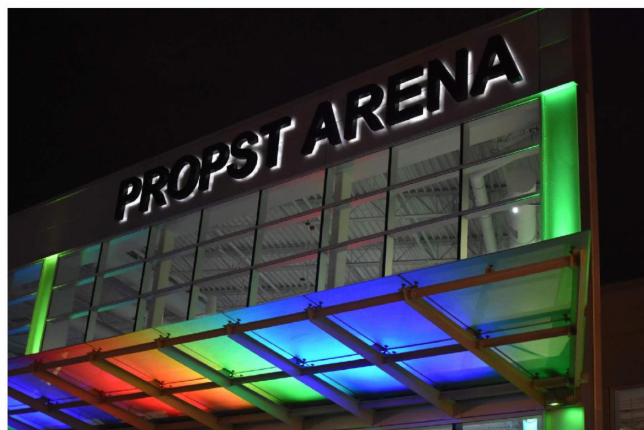
*This article, written by R.V. Baugus, originally appeared in Front Row News, the IAVM Industry Blog.*

## ALABAMA

### HUNTSVILLE VBC's Propst Arena Receives \$1.4 Million Exterior Facelift

The Von Braun Center (VBC) showcased enhancements to the exterior of the Propst Arena totaling around \$1.4 million during the season's first Concerts in the Park on Monday, June 6, 2022.

"This arena has been the focal point of large live events in Huntsville for over 47 years," commented VBC Executive Director Steve Maples. "From Johnny Cash opening the venue on March 25, 1975, followed by five consecutive sold out Elvis shows – plus, another two sold out Elvis shows the next year – to Dolly Parton, Liberace, Van Halen, Prince, Lionel Ritchie, Aerosmith, Cher, MC Hammer, Elton John, Jimmy Buffet, Kenny Chesney, Reba, Lauren Daigle, Brooks and Dunn – the list really does go on-and-on, the VBC has brought countless headlining shows to the arena and the Huntsville community has always shown up! Not to mention, the live sporting events held here and teams who have called the VBC home, the significant conferences and conventions throughout the year



that utilize the arena like AUSA Global Force Symposium, and Space and Missile Defense Symposium, or the thousands of eager graduates who have walked across our stage and received their diplomas.”

This exterior project began in December 2021 and was completed in May 2022. The first part of the exterior upgrade included a complete refresh of the façade by Pearce Construction Company. This included cleaning, sanding, and painting the existing metal wall panels and trim, textured cement panels, sills, beams, columns, doors and frames. This is the first major maintenance project to the exterior walls and paint since the original installation in 1973. The original cream color, has been replaced with a soft silver which mimics the exterior of the recent addition of **Rhythm on Monroe** and **Mars Music Hall** which both opened in early 2020.

The second phase of the exterior project on Propst Arena was the installation of an all-new decorative Lumenpulse LED lighting system designed by Matheny Goldmon Architecture + Interiors, and installed by Madison Electric, Incorporated. The mapping of the system included adding lighting along the beams of the circular bowl, the main entry lobby façade, and the interior light boxes inside the lobby.

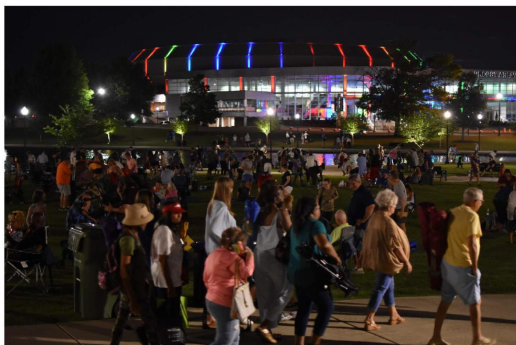
Maples continued, “Including this exterior facelift, the Propst Arena has undergone three major renovations over the years. In 2010, brand new seating was installed, and the lobby and concourse areas were expanded with modern Concessions, Bars and a cook-to-order walk-up café with outdoor balcony seating. Then, at the end of last year, the backstage area was expanded and remodeled to include beautiful star dressing rooms, state-of-the-art locker rooms, a catering kitchen and multiple offices for touring shows to utilize. All these enhancements are not only to enrich the experience of our attendees and performers, but to create a stunning focal point in the heart of downtown Huntsville that everyone can continue to be proud of for at least another 47 years!”

The new LED lighting system features full color-tuning fixtures to enhance events with colorful light shows and other lighting experiences. With this upgrade, the options for a completely integrated lighting system for events is unlimited and will result in an enhanced fan experience, as well as improved viewing opportunities of both live and televised events.

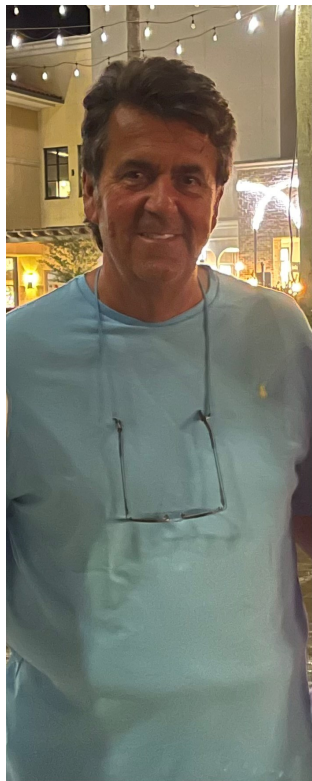
Recently, the VBC Propst Arena was showcased twice on national television. Once, through ESPN’s SEC Network during the SEC Gymnastics Championships; and again, during Lee Greenwood’s All Star Salute tribute concert.

“With Huntsville being ranked the No. 1 Best Place to Live by U.S. News & World Report, people and businesses are relocating to the area in droves and all eyes are on our fantastic city. We take our role at the VBC as a large contributing factor for Huntsville’s high quality of life very seriously and will continue to always make sure we’re delivering the highest-quality product in the nicest facility that we can.”

In 2021 as restrictions were loosened, the VBC hosted over 380 events throughout the facility with an economic impact of over \$43.5 million. Those events included concerts, family shows, conferences, conventions, banquets, meetings, and sporting events and were held across all venues within the VBC: Propst Arena, Mark C. Smith Concert Hall, Mars Music Hall, Playhouse, South Hall, North Hall and East Hall.



## FLORIDA



**DESTIN/FORT WALTON BEACH-** The Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center is pleased to welcome Ron Shumard to the team! Ron will serve as a Sports Sales & Marketing Coordinator, a newly created position with the organization.

Ron is an Ohio University alumnus with a master's in sports administration and facilities management. Beginning his career at the Capital Center in Maryland, Ron has dedicated his career in sports, facilities and event marketing. His past endeavors included positions with the Washington Capitals and Bullets, Nashville Sound, Texas Rangers, Rupp Arena, and being the founder of Showtime Baseball Tournaments in 2017.

From the start, Ron has been involved in hosting large occasions for extremely diverse and notorious events including NCAA Regional Basketball Tournaments, Garth Brooks and Paul McCartney concerts, MLB All-Star games and The XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta.

Ron spends free time attending sporting events from college football to major league baseball. He enjoys exploring the natural beauty of the earth, being immersed in various cultures and relaxing at the beach. He is excited to bring his sports passion to Destin-Fort Walton Beach with the goal of making the community a better place, welcoming visitors and growth.

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**DESTIN/FORT WALTON BEACH** - The Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center is pleased to welcome Victoria (Tori) Combs to the team! Tori will serve as a Convention Sales Manager.

Tori brings vast customer service, event planning, and quality communication skills to the Convention Center. Tori is passionate about establishing new relationships and serving those around her. Tori holds a Bachelors of Arts in Art History from Georgia College & State University, where she graduated in 2017 as Valedictorian, Summa Cum Laude. In December of 2022, Tori will finish her Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of West Georgia. Tori recently relocated to Destin-Fort Walton Beach from the state of Georgia. Prior to relocating to the Emerald Coast, Tori worked in higher education administration as Assistant Director of Recruitment & Admissions at Middle Georgia State University. In addition to her higher education experience, Tori worked at the visitors center for Macon, Georgia - Visit Macon. The skills Tori exemplified in her prior experience have prepared her to succeed as Sales Manager at the Convention Center.



During her free time, Tori enjoys spending time with her husband, family, friends and cat, Charlie. She spends much of her time outdoors, especially on the water, exploring the captivating Destin-Fort Walton Beach area.

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**MIAMI BEACH - An 800-room Grand Hyatt Miami Beach is slated to open onsite in 2025.**

In an effort to offer Miami Beach Convention Center visitors a full-service





experience, the venue is excited to announce that it is poised to welcome a brand-new Grand Hyatt hotel, slated for November 2025. Designed by Arquitectonica, this invigorating 800-room hotel will have 48 suites, 100,000 square feet of event space, five food and beverage outlets, a gym, two pools and a members-only club lounge. Offering the best of luxury, location and convenience, this lifestyle property will connect directly to the

convention center and put conference guests and event planners right in the heart of the City Center District. Adjacent to the Fillmore Theater (Live Nation) and across the street from the New World Center, the new hotel is also within easy walking distance of delectable fine dining and shopping on iconic Lincoln Road, the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, the stylish Art Deco surroundings, and beautiful South Beach.

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### **MIAMI BEACH - Enhanced Sustainability Efforts at the MBCC**

Specially designed fin-like structures reduce the heat inside the newly reimagined Miami Beach Convention Center, and bay lighting takes advantage of natural sunlight, high-efficiency units and LED bulbs. This new design reduces energy consumption by 20 percent. The MBCC is proud to have achieved LEED® Silver Certification as part of the venue's \$620-million-dollar expansion project which includes many environmentally friendly features.



Other sustainability efforts that the MBCC is undertaking include single stream recycling, reduced flow water fixtures, reduced electrical consumption, and donation programs to local non-profits. The MBCC also supports the City of Miami Beach's plastic free campaigns. Sodexo Live!, the exclusive food service provider for the Miami Beach Convention Center, embraces waste reduction by designing menus that have plant-based options and reducing the carbon footprint as a core component of their business. Serving tens of thousands of guests annually, Sodexo Live! employs eco-friendly compostable plates, flatware and "bio clear cups". Sodexo Live! has recently embarked on a composting partnership with a local composting provider for its organic, plant-based waste from meetings and conventions and debuted the process at "Aspen Ideas: Climate Summit" in May 2022. This program allows food waste to go back to the soil, support local farmers, protect biodiversity and fight climate change.

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**MIAMI BEACH** - Congratulations to Ricardo Serrano for being promoted to Assistant Event Operations Manager!

## **GEORGIA**

### **ATLANTA – COBB GALLERIA CENTRE & COBB ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF**

The Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority is pleased to announce the promotion of Nick Panter to the position of Executive

Chef at the Cobb Galleria Centre and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. Panter joined the culinary team in 2015 as Chef de Cuisine and has been promoted throughout his tenure to Sous Chef and Executive Sous Chef. As Executive Chef, Panter will oversee the entire kitchen and stewarding operation at both venues.

Born in Texas, Panter grew up in Oklahoma and New Mexico where he learned the art of creating powerful, spicy and craveable dishes drawing inspiration from Southeast Asian cuisine. Passionate about giving each guest a unique dining experience, Chef Panter plans to build upon the use of sustainable sourcing while expanding the network of local purveyors.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Panter is married with three daughters.



## LOUISIANA



### NEW ORLEANS - The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Unveils a New Logo

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC) has unveiled a new logo, a fresh, modern look to reflect a vibrant future filled with excitement and growth. As the convention center recovers from two years of reduced travel in the wake of COVID-19 lockdowns and the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, the refreshed logo amplifies that New Orleans is **Built to Host**.

“This is a new design for a new era,” said Convention Center President, Michael J. Sawaya. “The city is bouncing back, and we are thrilled to host conventions and other events that are already having a positive impact on local businesses.”

The debut of the new visual identity coincides with an extensive physical transformation already in progress. Major sustainability upgrades, interior and exterior modernizations, and plans to develop 39 acres of adjacent riverfront property — these projects are all part of the convention center’s ongoing \$557 million Capital Improvement Plan. The new logo reflects these sweeping changes, while also referencing iconic elements of the facility’s history, but with a new twist.

In the center of the new logo is a stylized depiction of an iconic art piece by sculptor Patrick Marold at the convention center’s plaza entrance. Titled The Alluvial Mirror, the name is a nod to the building’s historic location on the riverfront, where a sandy beach once naturally formed from the river’s alluvium — a word of Latin origin meaning a deposit of clay, silt, and sand left by flowing water, typically producing fertile soil.

The new logo also depicts the peaks of the Crescent City Connection bridge which has spanned the Mississippi River for over 60 years. Dramatic views of the bridge and the river will be very important in the center’s upcoming improvements. The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center’s name forms a block at the bottom of the logo, a visual representation of its foundational position as one of New Orleans’ largest economic drivers. A leading contributor to the city’s robust tourism economy, the convention center’s event activity has produced \$90 billion in economic impact since its 1985 opening, including \$5.7 billion in new tax revenue for state and local governments.

The new logo retains elements from the previous version paying tribute to both the convention center’s namesake and to the city of New Orleans — each of which are central to the identity of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The facility was first renamed in 1992 in honor of Ernest N. Morial, the first African American mayor of New Orleans. In 2008, the name was formally changed again to



emphasize how New Orleans' unique character influences and shapes the center's mission.

Designed by the convention center's Creative Services Manager, Eric LeBlanc, the new logo will have a phased rollout starting with digital and electronic assets such as web pages and email signatures, followed gradually by paper and physical assets. Click here for more details: <https://mccno.com/new-logo-faq/>.

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## **NEW ORLEANS - New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Wins Two Prestigious Environmental Leadership Program Awards**

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center has earned two major awards from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for major and impactful initiatives aimed at reducing the facility's environmental footprint. The Environmental Leadership Program Awards, given to the Center in the Community Environmental Outreach category, as well as the Energy and Water Pollution Reduction category, recognize outstanding activities and projects that demonstrate environmental leadership and the pursuit of a cleaner, safer environment.



New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center representatives were recognized for their efforts at the Environmental Leadership Program Awards on June 9 in Baton Rouge. To be considered for the awards, facilities were required to report and describe their most impactful projects as well as how the projects benefit their local communities.

The Community Environmental Outreach Award recognizes innovative projects that contribute to enhancing the quality of the environment for the local community. For this award, the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center highlighted an October 2021 project that, as part of a waste audit in pursuit of LEED certification, saw members of the facility's Executive Leadership Team, as well as staff managers and team leads, sort through over 400 pounds of a representative sample of waste materials. The Center learned that more than half of the total waste by weight was properly diverted from landfills, and followed that up with improvements to waste signage, waste bag color coding, and back-of-house waste sorting to improve the rate of waste diversion. Linda Baynham, the Director of Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility for the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, then engaged the community through presentations and webinars in partnership with Life City and Keep Louisiana Beautiful.

For the Energy and Water Pollution Reduction category, the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center was able to demonstrate a deep commitment to the reduction of water and energy use in its facility. They did so by implementing several major energy efficiency projects, which add up to one of the largest energy-saving initiatives ever undertaken in the region. The ambitious energy efficiency upgrades – including an overhaul of the facility's lighting and HVAC systems – are expected to save hundreds of thousands of dollars and millions of kilowatt hours, making the facility significantly more sustainable.

As part of these initiatives, the Convention Center awarded \$11 million in contracts to small and emerging businesses (SEBs) in the community and participated in **Energy Smart**, a comprehensive energy efficiency program developed by Entergy and the New Orleans City Council.

"We could not be more happy with the reception of our cutting-edge environmental projects," said Convention Center President Michael J. Sawaya. "These awards mean a lot to us as it not only rewards the

effort of every single person who has worked on these projects, but it also provides a blueprint for meaningful change that other facilities of our size can follow if they want to create positive change in their environment and local communities.”

This marks the second and third awards won by the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in 2022 for their significant efforts in this field. The first came when the facility was given the “Love Your City Award” in the Best Overall category in March. This award highlighted individuals and organizations that assess, improve, and address their impact in their communities through reductions in energy use, contributions to the local economy, commitments to providing equitable opportunities for all, and more. The Convention Center Director of Sustainability, Linda Baynham, spearheaded these initiatives.

“Our success in sustainability is thanks to the efforts from our committed staff who reached these major milestones in energy reduction through planning, design, and management,” said Adam Straight, Vice President of Operations at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. “We also appreciate the strong response from community leaders who encourage us to share our results and best practices with local organizations to help make sustainability a major focus in New Orleans.”



**NEW ORLEANS – New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
Names Elaine Williams as Senior Director of Sales and Event Services**

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC) announced that Elaine Williams, CMP, CEM-AP, has been named as the facility’s Senior Director of Sales and Event Services. In this new role, Williams will be responsible for developing and overseeing the Sales and Event Services functions from planning to execution.

Williams’s career in the Convention Center began with ARAMARK in 1996 when she was named Sales Manager. While working for ARAMARK, Williams rose through the ranks to achieve the positions of Director of Sales, Director of Operations and Interim General Manager. She joined the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center sales team in 2007 as a National Sales Manager. Most recently, Williams served as the Director of Sales for the facility.

In May 2021, Williams became the first facility representative in the history of the International Association of Exhibits and Events (IAEE) to earn an Advanced Professional certification in Exhibition Management.

“Elaine recently celebrated her 15-year anniversary working at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center,” said Michael J. Sawaya, Convention Center President. “Her contributions have been meaningful, and she consistently exceeds the expectations of our internal and external customers. Placing her in this new role demonstrates our faith that Elaine will continue to achieve great heights in our industry for many more years to come.”

## **NORTH CAROLINA**



**RALEIGH - Social Responsibility from the Heart**

You could forgive the Raleigh Convention Center if it wanted to rest on its sustainability laurels. After all, the LEED Silver-certified building has a 40 percent landfill-diversion rate, 2,000 solar panels on the roof, beehives in the garden, more than 50 vegan items on the catering menu, an HVAC system

that uses sustainably harvested plants instead of harsh chemicals to treat the water, and the list goes on —and continues to grow.

The convention center recently rolled out its newest initiative, “Share Your Meal,” which gives back to the community and challenges event clients to do so as well. The idea is a simple one: groups using the center can buy extra meals that they don’t actually receive. Instead, the value of those meals is matched by the Raleigh Convention & Performing Arts Complex and its caterer, Sodexo Live!, and the total amount goes to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina.

For the planners of the American Heart Association’s Heart Ball held March 11 at the convention center, the decision to participate was an easy one.

“The American Heart Association is truly honored to be the first organization to participate in the ‘Share Your Meal’ program,” said Anne Miller, regional executive director in the Triangle and Eastern N.C. for the American Heart Association. “Sadly, it is estimated that about one in seven households in the Triangle [region] experience food insecurity. The American Heart Association believes in the right to healthy food for all people to live their best lives.”

The donation from the Heart Ball purchased 6,000 pounds of produce for to the food bank, which included about 2,250 local sweet potatoes, almost 500 large local cabbage, about 1,800 tomatillos, 2,250 Roma tomatoes, 1,800 jalapeño peppers, and 60 cases of strawberries. Approximately 500 families North Carolina families benefited.

“There’s no question that our donations make a difference,” said Kerry Painter, director/general manager of the Raleigh Convention + Performing Arts Complex. “We hope others will join the American Heart Association in choosing to share their meals.”

*This article, written by Sue Hatch, originally appeared on MeetingsNet.com.*

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**RALEIGH** The 2021 City of Raleigh’s Climate Action Awards recognize the work of residents, organizations and businesses in Raleigh that advances the goals of Raleigh’s Community Climate Action Plan. The Raleigh Convention and Performing Arts Complex is proud to have been awarded separate Climate Action Awards for our initiatives in Energy and Waste.

With over a million guests annually attending conventions, concerts, and theatre performances at the Raleigh Convention and Performing Arts Complex (RCPAC), the Raleigh Convention Center, Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts, and Red Hat Amphitheater showcase the City of Raleigh’s continued dedication to sustainability on an international, national, and local level. From ongoing reductions in water and energy usage to environmentally sound construction and capital improvement efforts, the RCPAC has demonstrated its commitment to intentional, sustainably-minded choices that protect, conserve, and improve our local and global environment and community. Since 2017, the facility has diverted over 150,000 pounds of food from the landfill, created over 38,000 pounds of compost and avoided nearly 2000 tons of CO2 emissions from its waste management practices. The 500kW solar array on the Convention Center roof produce enough energy to power 100 NC homes. The facility’s use of LED lights both reduces energy use by over 318,000 watts per day and diverts electrical waste from the landfill because of longer-lasting bulbs. Additionally, native plantings and landscaping at the Convention Center provide habitat for pollinators and opportunity for public education about pollinator protection. The Complex is dedicated to providing excellent services to Raleigh’s visitors and guests and to demonstrating the viability of sustainable business practices.

## TENNESSEE

**NASHVILLE - Music City Center Earns 5-Star Energy Rating Achievement**



Music City Center has earned a 5-Star energy rating achievement from Camfil USA, a global air filtration specialist. The award recognizes the facility for meeting all Energy Cost Index (ECI) air filtration standards to maintain indoor air quality, while also saving energy.

Music City Center began using the Camfil Hi-Flo ES air filter in 2018 to improve the facility's air filtration system. The product filters typical air contaminants like smoke, pollen, and dust, but also removes bacteria, fungi, and virus-bearing droplets like those associated with COVID-19. The MERV-13-rated filter is guaranteed to maintain its efficiency rating, using less energy and requiring fewer filter changes.



“The health and safety of our guests is a priority for us,” said Music City Center President and Chief Executive Officer Charles Starks. “We want to provide clean indoor air, but we also want to conserve energy and reduce waste. These filters allow us to do all of that.”

“The facility is using the most energy-efficient, longest-lasting filters available,” said Armando Brunetti, President of Camfil Americas. “By choosing the right air filters, Music City Center is benefiting from significant savings as well as demonstrating environmental responsibility.”

Music City Center is LEED Gold Certified, which signifies that the facility reduces stress on the environment by being more energy efficient. The air filters are in addition to other sustainability initiatives that include use of a green roof, a stormwater management system, and solar power to conserve water and energy, as well as recycling, donating, and composting efforts to reduce waste.

The case study can be viewed on the Camfil website at <https://www.camfil.com/en-us/insights/case-studies/event-center-music-city-center-hi-flo-es-air-filter-usa>. Video of the award presentation can be found on the Music City Center YouTube Channel at <https://youtu.be/1vlvgAiWXUU>.





The advertisement features a circular seal at the top left with the text "PRODUCT PERFORMANCE GUARANTEED" around the perimeter and "Hi-Flo ES" in the center. Below the seal is a blue banner that reads "LASTS 12 MONTHS OR LONGER WITHOUT A PREFILTER". To the right of the seal is a large, green, pleated air filter with the "camfil" logo and "MERV14" and "MERV-A 14A" printed on it. Below the filter is a white box containing the "ENERGY COST INDEX" logo with five yellow stars and the text "5-Star ECI Rating". To the right of this box is a paragraph of text explaining the ECI rating.

**ENERGY COST INDEX** 5-Star ECI Rating

The **Hi-Flo ES** has earned five stars through the Energy Cost Index (ECI) program. Based on a five-star scale, the ECI is an indicator of what a filter will cost over its service life. Earning the top rating indicates that a filter is **the most energy-efficient, longest-lasting filter available.**



## NASHVILLE - Case Study Documents Music City Center's GBAC STAR™ Accreditation Process

Music City Center is now the subject of a case study by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council. The study follows the facility's journey toward GBAC STAR™ facility accreditation.

The GBAC STAR™ designation has become the gold standard for prepared facilities during the pandemic. Accreditation is reserved for facilities that demonstrate the superior ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from biorisk and infectious disease situations.

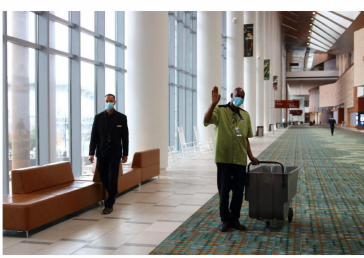
Music City Center initially achieved GBAC STAR™ status in July 2020 following the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19. Under the guidance of GBAC, a Division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, the center has established and maintained a cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention program to minimize risks associated with infectious agents like the novel coronavirus.

"The safety and well-being of our team, partners, guests, and neighbors is a top priority for us," said Music City Center President & CEO Charles Starks. "We are making every effort to provide a safe environment for anyone who walks through our doors, and this accreditation is proof of that commitment."

The GBAC STAR™ facility accreditation is part of a larger effort by Music City Center to build on existing procedures and protocols in response to COVID-19. Facility leadership continues to monitor local, state, and federal guidance on the virus and its variants.

The case study can be viewed on the GBAC website at <https://gbac.issa.com/case-studies/music-city-center-prioritizes-safe-events-with-gbac-star-facility-accreditation/>





## NASHVILLE - Music City Center Replaces Solar Panels

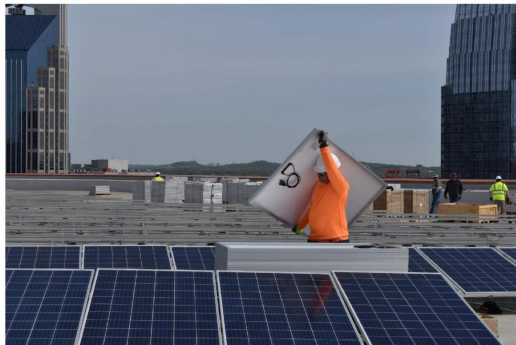
In spring 2022, Music City Center replaced its rooftop solar panels.

The original solar panels were installed during construction of the facility between 2010 and 2013. Replacing the panels required the use of a 300-ton crane with a reach of 338 feet.

Each of the 845 panels replaced weigh 49.6 pounds and can sustain 125 mile per hour

winds. All the original panels were replaced, increasing the 211-kilowatt grid to a 241-kilowatt grid. This will allow the grid to increase annual power generation from 300,845 kWh to 343,369 kWh on average.

The solar panels are one part of several initiatives that support the facility's commitment to sustainability. Other initiatives include a green roof, energy conservation, stormwater management, and waste reduction systems.



## VIRGINIA

### ROANOKE - In Memory of Bobby Eugene Chapman, August 30, 1936 - May 22, 2022

Bobby E. Chapman, 85, of Roanoke, went home to be with the Lord





on Sunday, May 22, 2022, while surrounded by his loving family. He was preceded by his parents, John Ross Chapman and Katherine Booth Chapman; and a sister, Joyce Stamper.

Bob proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the city of Roanoke as Manager of the Roanoke Civic Center after many years of service.

Surviving are his devoted wife of 63 years, Barbara McAllister Chapman; daughters, Carla Leigh Chapman Hurley, and Kelly Lynn Chapman; grandchildren, Makayla Hurley, Joseph Tanner Bailey, and Tyler Ross Bailey; several nieces, nephews, and dear friends too numerous to mention.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials take the form of donations to **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** an organization that Bob loved and supported.

## ALLIED NEWS

VSG-Advantage Training has launched an essential front-line event and venue personnel preparation program. Leading the Crowd focuses on understanding the core components of delivering and maintaining a safe and secure venue. See more at [www.vsgAdvantageTraining.com](http://www.vsgAdvantageTraining.com)

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### **Evelyn Ingram Joins Activity Stream as VP of Commercial Sales, North America**

Venue software industry veteran Evelyn Ingram joined Activity Stream as Vice President, Commercial Sales - North America. Ingram will focus on introducing the Activity Stream platform to venues in North America.

With her many years in the live event industry, Evelyn has a passion and drive to push the boundaries of digital marketing and ticket sales by working with tools that support venues in making data-driven decisions and delivering fan-based intelligence to customers.

*"I am thrilled to join Activity Stream and work with an exceptionally forward-thinking and inventive team, coupled with an innovative marketing intelligence product. Tools that help venues make data-driven decisions are crucial, even more so since COVID. Activity Stream goes even beyond that and delivers fan-based intelligence that is usable, actionable, and impactful. The platform is unique and ground-breaking. I'm very thankful to be a part of it!"* says Evelyn Ingram.

Evelyn holds a BA in psychology from Arizona State University. Her strong professional background consists of 20 years in the venue software industry at EventBooking and Ungerboeck, garnering over 1,000 client venues worldwide. Her deep industry commitment is shown through past service on the IAVM Membership Committee, IAVM Allied Committee and IAVM Executive Leadership Committee, while today serving on the IAVM Diversity and Inclusive Leadership Committee.

Evelyn's professional capabilities landed her a prestigious title within the event and venue industry, with VenuesNow Magazine naming her a "Woman of Influence" in 2018. Join us, welcoming Evelyn as part of the team here at Activity Stream.



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