



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VENUE MANAGERS REGION 5 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGION 5 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

IAVM Region 5 is excited to offer the opportunity for two Young Professionals and ten Students with membership to IAVM for one year! Click the links below for the applications and more information on these exciting opportunities!

Members, please forward these applications to anyone in your venue who could take advantage of a membership or an R5 venue that does not have any IAVM members and a note asking that they forward the Student scholarship application to any university, college or post-secondary school in their state that offers degrees in fields associated with, or appropriate to public venue management or operations.



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
VENUE MANAGERS
REGION 5

IAVM YOUNG PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

[IAVM Region 5 is offering two scholarships for a one-year membership as a Young Professional member of the International Association of Venue Managers \(IAVM\)](#)

IAVM

Representing public assembly venues from around the globe, IAVM's active members include managers and senior executives from auditorium, arenas, convention centers, exhibit halls, stadiums, performing arts centers, university complexes, and amphitheatres.

Membership levels of IAVM include Professional, Young Professional, Professional Group, Allied, Allied Group, Faculty and Student. [Membership—International Association of Venue Managers \(iavm.org\)](#)

Member venues represent huge expenditures of public and private funds. They attract millions of patrons to an astonishing variety of events from football to basketball, baseball to hockey, from rock concerts to conventions, conferences to ballets...the list is almost endless.

IAVM counts more than 500 Allied companies among its members. These companies provide products and services used by managers. Through their IAVM membership, Allied members can present their products to this vast market.

A Young Professional is defined as:

- Individuals who are actively involved in the management, administration or operation of a qualified public venue at a level below the top two levels of management at the venue, i.e., Executive, General Manager or Department Head
- Open to any individual who is 30 years of age or younger
- Birth date must be provided to meet membership qualifications
- Applicant cannot move from Professional Membership to Young Professional Membership
- A Student Member can upgrade to the Young Professional Membership classification as long as the outlined requirements are met

These Scholarships are being offered only to Young Professionals actively involved at venues located in [IAVM Region 5](#) which includes the states of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana as well as Central and S. America.

IAVM reserves the right to approve or deny category requests for any scholarship offered.
Memberships are non-transferable.

The selected candidate must apply for membership with IAVM no later than (30) days from date of award.

Please complete and submit the following application for consideration!

Rev: 9.21.23

**APPLY FOR THE YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS SCHOLARSHIP**



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
VENUE MANAGERS
REGION 5

IAVM STUDENT MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

[IAVM Region 5 is offering ten scholarships for a one-year membership as a Student member of the International Association of Venue Managers \(IAVM\).](#)

IAVM

Representing public assembly venues from around the globe, IAVM's active members include managers and senior executives from auditorium, arenas, convention centers, exhibit halls, stadiums, performing arts centers, university complexes, and amphitheatres.

Membership levels of IAVM include Professional, Young Professional, Professional Group, Allied, Allied Group, Faculty and Student. [Membership—International Association of Venue Managers \(iavm.org\)](#)

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A Student is defined by IAVM as:

- Student Membership is open to any individual who is enrolled at a university, college, or post-secondary technical school and is actively pursuing a degree in fields associated with, or appropriate to public venue management or operations.
- If an individual is employed full-time with a venue or industry provider, you are ineligible for Student Membership

These Scholarships are being offered only to students enrolled at a university, college, or post-secondary technical school in [IAVM Region 5](#) which includes the states of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana as well as Central and S. America.

IAVM reserves the right to approve or deny category requests for any scholarship offered.

Memberships are non-transferable.

The selected candidate must apply for membership with IAVM no later than (30) days from date of award.

Please complete and submit the following application for consideration!

Rev: 9.21.23

**APPLY FOR THE STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIP**

IAVM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This anonymous survey is being conducted to help IAVM measure and track the diversity of its membership. The data collected is not associated with names, identities, locations, or IP addresses of participants and only takes 1-3 minutes to complete.

Take the survey before the end of the year to help IAVM understand the diverse perspectives, experiences, and identities of its members. Participating in this survey will help your association serve you better.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Region 5 is looking for volunteers to serve on various committees. If you are interested, please email IAVMR5@gmail.com for more information.

IAVM MENTOR CONNECTOR PROGRAM

A graphic for the IAVM Mentor Connector Program. It features the IAVM logo and the text "IAVM MENTOR CONNECTOR" and "MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR IAVM MEMBERS". The main text reads "FALL CYCLE APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 6th!" and "TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY CLICK HERE". At the bottom, it says "Mentors at all career stages are especially encouraged to apply!". The background is a colorful, abstract pattern of small squares.

IAVM MENTOR CONNECTOR
MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR IAVM MEMBERS

**FALL CYCLE APPLICATIONS DUE
OCTOBER 6th!**

**TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY
CLICK HERE**

Mentors at all career stages are especially encouraged to apply!

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 bryan.miller@crva.com

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

SPORTS FACILITIES COMPANIES
CLEARWATER, FL

APPLY NOW

DIRECTOR OF EVENT SERVICES

THE CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER
CHARLESTON, SC

APPLY NOW

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

NASHVILLE BALLET
NASHVILLE, TN

APPLY NOW

GENERAL MANAGER

SAVANNAH CONVENTION CENTER
SAVANNAH, GA

APPLY NOW

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

COBB-MARIETTA COLISEUM & EXHIBIT
HALL AUTHORITY
ATLANTA, GA

APPLY NOW

DIRECTOR OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT

GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER
AUTHORITY
ATLANTA, GA

APPLY NOW

NEWS & VENUE UPDATES

 **Alabama**

**VBC'S NORTH HALL
RENAMED AND
UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS**

HUNTSVILLE – The Von Braun Center (VBC)



is pleased to announce the renovation and renaming of its frequently utilized venue, North Hall.

“North Hall is one of the most-rented venues within the VBC,” said VBC Executive Director Steve Maples. “The layout of three separate ballrooms downstairs that can be opened into one large space, paired with multiple breakout salons on the mezzanine level have made this an ideal space for events ranging from elegant weddings and galas to large

conferences, small meetings and everything in-between.”

The VBC’s North Hall originally opened on December 4, 1987 with a “Premier for the Arts” black-tie gala. The total project, which added around 100,000 square feet to the facility, cost \$8 million.

Maples continued, “The addition of the hall almost 36 years ago was intended to enhance the flexibility of the overall facility by adding space for banquets, meetings and receptions. It continues to make Huntsville a viable option for large conferences and tradeshows needing multiple event spaces simultaneously, while also being a space for banquets, galas, weddings, local town meetings and more.”

Before opening in 1987, management projected 150 occupancy dates annually within the space; in current times, ballroom occupancy has increased by more than 10%. Rental demand is consistently increasing in tandem with Huntsville’s growth and national popularity.

“The intent of this renovation and renaming project is to ensure the community the VBC proudly serves continues to have an elegant and modern space to host local events, while also having a space to proudly welcome both national and international guests who bring large-scale events to North Alabama,” said VBC Board of Control Chairman Evans Quinlivan.

When the ballroom was first named, other parts of the Von Braun (then Civic) Center (VBCC) included the VBCC Arena, Concert Hall, Playhouse, East Hall, West Hall, and the Huntsville Museum of Art. The addition of the ballroom was built on the north-side of the campus and thus earned the name North Hall.

In keeping with the space-theme of the complex and the city’s nationally recognized nickname in which it is located – The Rocket City – the elegant venue within the VBC is officially renamed to Saturn Ballroom.

“There has always been some confusion when speaking with national and international event planners who need ballroom space,” Maples continued. “We continuously have to explain that North Hall is in fact a ballroom, so when we began brainstorming potential new names, we knew we wanted to include the term ‘ballroom’ in the title. Additionally, NASA’s Saturn project is hugely important to North Alabama and our entire region so landing on the name ‘Saturn’ felt right and ties into the VBC’s family of venues perfectly.”

The Von Braun Center is home to eight venues including: Propst Arena, Mark C. Smith Concert Hall, Playhouse, Mars Music Hall, Rhythm on Monroe, South Hall, East Hall, and Saturn Ballroom.

Recently, the VBC was showcased three times on national television: During coverage of the SEC Gymnastics Championships; Lee Greenwood’s All-Star Salute tribute concert; and Still Playin’ Possum: Music and Memories of George Jones (broadcasting on PBS with an airdate to be announced soon).

“With Huntsville consistently landing in top spots on national rankings, including 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,” commented Maples. “We take our role at the VBC as a large factor for Huntsville’s 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.”

When last year’s fiscal year ended, the VBC had hosted over 490 events with an estimated economic impact of over \$80 million between October 2021 to September 2022. The full Annual Report for 2021-2022 can be found on vonbrauncenter.com.

After receiving city approval in 2021, the ballroom renovation project began in May 2022 and is projected

to be complete by the end of 2023 with a total project cost of \$12.5 million. Renovations include upgraded wall coverings, flooring, a color-changing LED lighting system, upgraded audio system and more. Modified areas include the ballroom, main entrance lobby, public corridors, restrooms, meeting rooms, and other auxiliary spaces. Additionally, the building exterior is receiving a new roof system, exterior paint, new signage, and a decorative LED lighting system.

This is the first major maintenance and renovation project to North Hall since the original installation in 1987.



Florida

FREE RESOURCE FOR RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS

PENSACOLA – A free resource has been available to our members for years. It is Sports Facilities and the Law. The publication is produced every other month and has several case summaries, articles, and risk management tips to help any public assembly facility operate as safe as possible and avoid possible legal challenges. There are over 1,000 subscribers and besides being a great resource, we are always looking for interesting articles if any members might be interested in contributing an article or story. Gil Fried (University of West Florida) is the editor for the seven year old publication and welcomes any thoughts or suggestions (gfried@uwf.edu). To subscribe visit the web site at: <https://sportsfacilitieslaw.com/>.

READ THE LATEST



VETERAN IAVM MEMBER MIKE BARBER HONORED BY QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION & HUNTING WITH HEROES

TAMPA – Long time IAVM Member (1976) and Air Force Veteran (1966-72), Mike Barber, was honored by the Quilts of Valor Foundation (www.qovf.org) at a September 9 Ceremony in Casper, Wyoming. Each Quilt is stitched with a unique Patriotic Pattern and is personally handmade with love & compassion for a Disabled Veteran selected by members of the QOV Foundation. Mike's Quilt was made especially for him by QOV Member Cindy Worman in Texas. He was also hosted that weekend by the *Hunting with Heroes* Foundation (<https://huntingwithheroes.org/>) to a special guided Antelope Hunt in Wyoming on the sprawling Forges Diamond M Ranch.

Barber is recognized for his role in providing direct support to the Vietnam War as a member of the 15th Tactical Aerial Reconnaissance Squadron working Classified missions from a Mobile Trailer Complex. His Team provided timely/accurate film Intelligence 24/7 to monitor enemy movements, strike assessments, real time artillery strikes and rescue missions. His new daughter was only 6 months old when he departed overseas, and she was 2 years old when he returned 1 & 1/2 years later (no access to cell phones or computers during that assignment). "... that experience made the long hours, weekends & holidays required for opening/operating multiple Venues easier for me by comparison", he said

The Veterans Administration Classified Mike 100% T&P Disabled with Service Connected Disabilities. He did not, however, let this prevent him from completing College or pursuing a Career after his service. He obtained a B.S. Degree (Summa Cum Laude) at Fresno State & a Graduate Degree at The University of

Toledo. Before becoming a Member of the IAAM 47 years ago, he held Management Positions with major Resorts in California, including Squaw Valley USA, site of the 1960 Winter Olympics. Upon joining IAAM, Barber was recruited as 'Founding Director' of several successful new Venues in Ohio, Michigan, Louisiana & Florida. He also consulted to several other new Venues across the U.S. and Internationally. Included among his multiple Venue Projects was 16 years oversight of Tropicana Field, home of MLB Tampa Bay Rays Baseball in St Petersburg. During his early membership years, Mike was instrumental in establishing the University Committee, and he was a member of the original Professional Development Committee. He is grateful for the many referrals and career opportunities that came his way during his membership tenure with the IAVM.

Originally from the Black Hills/Badlands of South Dakota, Mike & his wife of 57 years, Judy, are enjoying retirement in Tampa, Florida. They have 2 married Children and 7 Grandsons; 5 Grandsons are currently University Students & the youngest Twin boys are H.S. Seniors..

(Note: Less than 7% of US Population are Veterans, and Viet Nam Veterans still living comprise less than 2% of US Population.)



MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER (MBCC) UNITES COMMUNITY AND DESTINATION AHEAD OF PEAK SEASON WITH VENUE SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING

MIAMI BEACH - In partnership with International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) and in support of local, national and global efforts to continuously and consistently enhance public safety and security in an ever-changing landscape, the Miami Beach Convention Center (MBCC) conducted an advanced Venue Safety and Security Training on Thursday, August 10, 2023 for over 325+ registered attendees from 1st responders to venue security professionals from key stakeholders, partners, event and performing arts centers, convention centers, stadiums, arenas, hotels, nightclubs, government emergency departments, including local and federal agencies and also supported by the Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisor and the DHS Commercial Facilities stakeholders division. The training was led by Mark Herrera, the Director of Safety and Security IAVM & OVG360 (Oak View Group), reflecting a collaboration of the highest standard to implement best practices, protocols and procedures that create the safest and most conducive environment for our employees, guests and contract partners.

"As always, the health, safety and security of all who enter the MBCC and our Campus is our number 1 priority," said Freddie Peterson, General Manager of the MBCC. "Ongoing training and emergency preparedness are paramount as we want to ensure that we exceed the expectations of those who interact with the MBCC's Campus. Together with our amazing first responder community, coupled with our wonderful contract partners, we remain committed to all aspects of life safety while delivering excellence in customer service and venue management."

The training included:

- De-escalation training for frontline teams
- Active threat/active shooter preparedness & response
- Situational awareness & risk mitigation through guest service interjection
- Building a resilient & all-inclusive security culture: best practices for developing leadership and frontline staff in or to build a resilient security culture.

Miami Beach Convention Center hosted a community wide all-inclusive security training not only to bolster their own security but to also contribute to the resilience and preparedness of the entire

community. By coming together, the partners have created a safer environment for all throughout various locations and venues in South Florida

David Whitaker, President and CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, emphasizes the unified mission: “In the face of everything from severe weather to constant threats of cyber security, our destination and our customer’s safety and security must be at the forefront. It’s about being prepared in advance, not just when an incident occurs. Our collaborative efforts with our top destination venues exemplify thought leadership and enable us to implement leading-edge safety measures and confidence across the board.”

Mark Herrera, IAVM's Director of Safety and Security, who has years of experience working in law enforcement special operations and the Department of Homeland Security, led the training. “It’s inspiring to see the dedication of the Miami Beach Convention Center to provide a safe and secure environment not only for their facility but the industry as a whole,” said Herrera. “Their commitment to the highest standards sets a precedent in the industry and is vital for the safety of the community.”

As part of its ongoing effort to ensure a secure environment, MBCC continues to work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The event follows a series of similar successful trainings across the country and stands as a testament to MBCC's commitment to safety, innovation, and excellence.

“With the training and expertise now in place, we are more prepared than ever to offer our clients a secure, world-class experience,” added Jac White, MBCC Director of Safety & Security. “We will continue to work closely together with the City of Miami Beach and our partners to innovate and adapt to future trends in safety and security, reinforcing our position as one of the leading convention centers in the nation.”

Sponsored by and in collaboration with IAVM-International Association of Venue Managers, ESCA-Exhibition Services & Contractors Association, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, Smart City Networks, Sodexo Live!, Everlast Productions, A6 Security, and OVG360 - Oak View Group, MBCC has taken significant steps to enhance the security protocols and safety measures in place to protect all visitors and participants. The Miami Beach Convention Center is owned by the City of Miami Beach and managed by OVG360 (Oak View Group).



THE MBCC FOCUSES ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR), SUSTAINABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING (DEIB)

MIAMI BEACH – Four staff members have earned the Events Industry Council’s (EIC)’s “Sustainable Event Professional Certificate,” which is designed for

professionals who are dedicated to implementing sustainability and social impact where they work. Having already earned its Silver LEED Certification because of its energy-efficient green building and lower carbon footprint, the MBCC is currently advancing through the EIC’s organizational certification program to implement the EIC Sustainable Event Standards, a collection of eight specific standards that assess events and industry suppliers on a wide range of sustainability criteria in support of environmental and social responsibility.

“We see accelerated demand for sustainability efforts and practices from our event customers and are proud to be able to offer innovative solutions for waste and carbon footprint reduction as well as donation programs that benefit our local non-profits and families in need,” says Ariane Hildebrand, Director of Marketing & External Relations and Chair of the MBCC CSR/Sustainability Committee. “Our team has hosted a number of sustainability tours of the Miami Beach Convention Center this year for event customers, media, local organizations, and hospitality partners, as well as universities.” The MBCC is also host to an increasing number of climate conferences, such as the Aspen Ideas: Climate Summit this past spring and the upcoming 15th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit.

As part of its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the MBCC invites organizers, exhibitors, and all contract partners to donate to the MBCC’s C.A.R.E. (Community Assistance by Responsible Events) program. Not only does donating these leftover materials such as office supplies, pens, brochures, bags, furniture, and other items divert waste from local landfills, the program supports local non-profits, directly benefiting some of the neediest residents, families, and children in our community.

Taking a sustainable, eco-friendly approach to its food and beverage business practices, Sodexo Live! expanded its composting program with Miami-based “Compost 4 Life”, recycling cooking oils to prevent additional food waste, and is a proud participant in the “Plastic Free Miami Beach” initiative, eliminating zero single-use plastics and serving items with compostable, reusable, or recyclable cutlery, cups, and dishware. Furthermore, Sodexo Live! at MBCC donates tens of thousands of pounds of prepared but unused food to The Caring Place, Miami Rescue Mission, and Food Rescue Miami.

This spring, Chef Samantha worked with the back-of-house staff to build an herb and vegetable garden next to Rum Room on the MBCC campus, which began as a project to drive more sustainable practices in the kitchen. The garden currently holds 192 square feet of herb and vegetable beds and consists of organic soil mixed with compost from the convention center’s composting program. The vegetables and herbs harvested will be used on the Rum Room and Venu menus and foliage will be added to table garnishes and decorations. Solar-powered lights were installed on the wooden fence surrounding the garden.

The MBCC has an internal DEIB committee to foster a culture of inclusivity and plan activities that celebrate diversity. Committed to inclusion, the MBCC is also an active member of the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and currently participates in the “Pink Flamingo” program roll-out to offer additional resources and visitor amenities to the global LGBTQ+ community.



MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER CELEBRATES A BANNER AWARD-WINNING SPRING/SUMMER AND LOOKS FORWARD TO AN EXCITING FALL SEASON

MIAMI BEACH – The Miami Beach Convention Center (MBCC), South Florida's reimagined, renovated, expanded and top-tier convention center, unveils a suite of recent 2023 highlights and a glance into its

exciting fall program.

Reflecting on the whirlwind spring and summer season, Freddie Peterson, General Manager of the Miami Beach Convention Center, proudly managed by OVG360 noted, “It’s been an unprecedented period for the MBCC and its campus. We experienced record-breaking attendance and exhibitors for a number of our annual events in Miami Beach, received prestigious awards, and completed digital upgrades and enhancements to our safety, security, and sustainability programs. Our vision is clear: delivering exceptional events, driving excellence in customer service and venue management while creating memorable experiences. Together with the City of Miami Beach and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), we continue to welcome all who enter the MBCC and its campus with open arms.”

AWARDS

The MBCC is excited to announce remarkable achievements and key event industry accolades: the “Smart Stars 2023 Award” by *Smart Meetings Magazine* and the “2023 F&D Prime Site Award” by *Facilities & Destinations*. MBCC's sustainability program was further honored by UFI (The Global Association for the Events Industry), with a “Best Practice Recognition” in the category of “Sustainability Development”. These, coupled with being named finalists for upcoming award unveilings “Distinctive Achievement Award 2023” by *Association, Conventions & Facilities Magazine*, the Stella Awards by *Northstar Meetings Group*, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Southeast Florida / Caribbean 2023 Project of the Year Award, as well as being a nominee for *Exhibitor Magazine's* “Centers of Excellence Award 2023” underscore its commitment to industry excellence.

NEW WEBSITE

In April, the MBCC unveiled its dynamic new website www.miamibeachconvention.com, developed in collaboration with the award-winning digital agency, Miles Partnership. The site offers an immersive digital experience, fusing striking visuals, compelling storytelling, and user-friendly navigation. Visitors are invited to explore the convention center's state-of-the-art facilities and amenities, with an emphasis on diversity, sustainability, and accessibility. Enhanced features include a fully integrated Spanish language version via Google Translate, social media integration, interactive tools such as 360 virtual tours, and an interactive map of the MBCC campus and convention center district. Engaging landing pages for meeting planners, attendees, and exhibitors showcase the MBCC's compelling features and venue partner offerings from Sodexo Live!, SmartCity Networks, Everlast Productions, and First Class Parking.

Re-imagined following a \$640 million renovation, the expanded MBCC includes a new 60,000- square-foot Grand Ballroom, four junior ballrooms, almost 500,000 square feet of exhibition space, an expanded Grand Lobby, pre-function areas that are bathed in natural light, up to 84 breakout rooms, approximately 800 roof deck parking spaces, almost 2,100 miles of cabling to support all IT communications, \$10.2 million worth of art curated by the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places program and a six-acre (Pride Park) and three-acre (Collins Canal Park) public green spaces that can serve as incremental event space. The MBCC campus includes two new event spaces: Venu, a space for elegant private events and upscale meetings, and Rum Room, a 1920s restaurant with an enticing tapas-style menu and local South Florida rums.

With a sharp focus on search engine optimization, the website ensures high visibility and attracts organic traffic, solidifying MBCC's position in the conventions and events industry. Integral to the website's success has been collaborative efforts with partners. The MBCC collaborated closely with the City of Miami Beach and the GMCVB to align the website design with the Miami Beach destination brand campaign, "Find Your Wave." The digital platform presents the lively Miami Beach experience, blending the MBCC's architectural ocean theme with local arts, culture, and innovation.

For more information on MBCC's Fall season, click [here](#).

Georgia



GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER AUTHORITY HOSTS TEAM SUMMIT 2023

ATLANTA- Georgia World Congress Center Authority hosted *TEAM SUMMIT 2023: UNconventional Leaders* this summer at the Georgia World Congress Center. Team Summit is GWCCA's annual one-day leadership experience that ignites growth and delivers resources for personal and organizational development. This year's event included guests

from Microsoft, Atlanta Falcons, Freeman, Atlanta Motor Speedway, Focus Brands, Georgia Tech Athletics, National Black MBA Association Atlanta, and more.

The day started with breakfast, RC car races, and even a lip sync battle before GWCCA Team Members

and guests filled up the Thomas Murphy Ballroom to hear from an outstanding lineup of speakers.

The speakers were Billy Boughey, founder and president of Elevate Experiences, Dr. Bryant Marks, a minister, researcher, trainer, and award-winning educator from Morehouse University, Jenny Boyett, the co-founder of The ColorWorks Group, and Malcolm Mitchell, former University of Georgia and New England Patriots wide receiver and national “Champion of Children Award” winner. The group of dynamic speakers and motivators challenged those in attendance to strive and assume roles as leaders in their respective workplaces.

“Today was a remarkable experience... it was just really fun to be a part of, from the diversity we had on stage, different types of speakers, different folks from different backgrounds. It was just a great day overall,” speaker and host Billy Boughey said. Dr. Bryant Marks, who spoke about Implicit Bias, added “I thought this event was great. I was inspired just walking in by the speakers before me and the energy in the room.”



ERNEST N. MORIAL NEW ORLEANS EXHIBITION HALL AUTHORITY RECOGNIZES COMPLETION OF DUE DILIGENCE FOR NEW MIXED-USE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEW ORLEANS — The commissioners of the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority (“the Authority”) approved a measure authorizing River District Neighborhood Investors, LLC (RDNI) to begin the infrastructure work necessary to build a new mixed-use development adjacent to the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

In October 2022, the Authority formally approved terms of the master development agreement, allowing RDNI to proceed as master developer for the neighborhood. The project has been hailed as a generational opportunity to activate undeveloped urban riverfront land as a transformative asset for the New Orleans region and the state of Louisiana.

Since then, RDNI partners have been hard at work surveying the land, conducting impact studies and assessing community needs and feedback.

“We are delighted to announce that after rigorous due diligence, planning and predevelopment work, our new neighborhood is getting off the ground,” said Louis Lauricella, co-managing member of RDNI. “We are ready to begin construction on this one-of-a-kind opportunity to work, play and stay along the Mississippi River. The River District promises a ‘new’ New Orleans neighborhood – one that is sustainable and integrated with the surrounding area.”

The neighborhood, parts of which are slated to open as soon as January 2025, will feature entertainment, greenspaces, retail, offices and a range of residential options, including affordable housing and workforce housing. In September, Shell’s Gulf of Mexico operations announced it will anchor the District’s commercial office space with the first Class-A office building to be constructed in the city since 1989, and earlier this year, Topgolf announced its involvement in the development.

“We are excited to finally hit the ground running on this exciting new neighborhood,” said Jerry Reyes, President of the Ernest N. Morial Exhibition Hall Authority. “This development is going to be foundational in positively changing the quality of life for people in our city, and we are ready to go.”

The River District is expected to generate \$43 million of new annual net tax revenues, more than \$1 billion of annual economic activity, a projected 9,000 construction jobs and nearly 6,000 projected permanent jobs for the entire development.

RDNI has made a commitment to build a total of 900 residential units, 450 of which will be affordable and workforce housing units in the development, allowing hospitality and entertainment industry employees and those in other industries to live near the places they work.

As part of the project, RDNI has pledged to engage at least 30% participation of small and emerging businesses (SEB) and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) in all facets of the project, including

development, construction, design, professional services and goods/services.

“The RDNI/NOENMCC endeavor is a partnership committed to the progression, growth and empowerment of highly effective small businesses, especially disadvantaged ones. By its very inception, the RDNI founders created a rarely seen collaboration that is a model for equitable economic development in this city and beyond. The respect for intentionality in the alliance between this public and private entity is a prototype I hope to see replicated by other developers in the future.” said Iam Christian Tucker, president, CEO and owner of ILSI Engineering, a minority, woman-owned engineering firm based in New Orleans.

ILSI engineering has been providing civil engineering and storm water management planning for the project.

Contractors will start work on the property, outfitting the site with roads, water and sewer services, internet and electricity needs and other infrastructure improvements. A formal groundbreaking ceremony will take place later this year.



NEW ORLEANS ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER RECEIVES 2023 DOWNTOWN NOLA AWARD

NEW ORLEANS— The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (NOENMCC) has received its first Downtown NOLA Award from the Downtown Development District of New Orleans (DDD). The annual award recognizes downtown New Orleans property owners, businesses,

residents, workers and organizations whose exceptional accomplishments have made them outstanding neighbors delivering sustainable construction, equitable operations or inspiring events to the downtown area.

“We are truly honored to be recognized by the DDD for our commitment to excellence locally because that is at the core of Convention Center operations,” said Michael J. Sawaya, Convention Center President and CEO. “In everything we do, we strive to maximize the positive impact we make for our people and our city and minimize our impact on the environment. I am proud to see the Convention Center included among the 2023 Downtown NOLA Award recipients and grateful to our incredible staff

for making us a top venue globally and a great neighbor here in New Orleans.”

The 2023 Downtown NOLA Award is the latest of several esteemed honors the NOENMCC has received this year, including:

- 2023 Venue Excellence Award from the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM)
- Eight-time regional Top Workplace by The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate (2023)
- 2023 New Orleans CityBusiness Empowering Women Award
- NOENMCC Director of Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Linda Baynham recognized as one of five local Travel and Tourism Week Champions
- NOENMCC Chief Administrative Officer Alita Caparotta named one of New Orleans CityBusiness’ Women of the Year and a “Power 20” Leader in tourism and hospitality

The Convention Center also earned its first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification in 2022 and received AA+ bond ratings from both Fitch Ratings and Moody’s Investor Services in 2023.

The DDD drives development for downtown New Orleans and works to provides enhanced services for businesses to help elevate New Orleans as a world-class destination. An awards ceremony hosted by the DDD will recognize all honorees on Oct. 18 at the Audubon Aquarium.



NEW ORLEANS ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER PRESIDENT & CEO PARTICIPATES IN ROLL WITH ME CHALLENGE

NEW ORLEANS – Michael J. Sawaya, President & CEO of the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, participated in the “Roll With Me Challenge,” an initiative by Mark Raymond Jr., the founder and CEO of the Split Second Foundation, a New Orleans-based non-profit that

provides wrap-around services for families impacted by physical disabilities.

The challenge involves immersing executives and high-ranking officials of Louisiana-based businesses in the experience of wheelchair mobility by navigating their facilities alongside Raymond, who utilizes a motorized wheelchair. The primary objective of this initiative is to foster a deeper appreciation among influential leaders of Louisiana establishments for the potential challenges that differently-abled individuals may encounter while accessing their facilities.

“Historically, this city has had challenges with providing the disabled with the experiences they deserve,” said Raymond. “The Roll with Me Challenge is so important because it asks how we, as leaders, are changing that and embracing accessibility and inclusivity to bridge the gaps and provide a better experience for everyone that visits our city.”

During the challenge, Sawaya rolled up and down the facility’s numerous accessibility ramps, entered through doors equipped with push-to-open automatic door openers, and actively engaged with various accessibility features throughout the facility, gaining firsthand insights into the experiences of differently-abled individuals visiting the Convention Center. All of this while having a lively conversation with Mark about the history and importance of accessibility and equity for everyone entering the facility.

“We have really taken a keen eye to accessibility improvements here at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center,” said Sawaya. “Providing a consistent experience for everyone who enters our doors, no matter their ability, is one of the most important aspects of what we do at the Convention Center.”

The Roll with Me Challenge series has garnered more than 300,000 views across social media platforms, with some of the most influential people in Louisiana participating, including Governor John Bel Edwards, New Orleans and Company President Walt Leger, Windsor Court General Manager and New Orleans

Tennessee

F&M BANK ARENA GENERAL MANAGER NAMED TO *VENUESNOW* 2023 IMPACT NEXTGEN LIST

CLARKSVILLE Kylie Wilkerson, General Manager of the newly-opened F&M Bank Arena, was named to VenuesNow 2023 Impact NextGen list and was featured on the cover of the magazine.

"Kylie is the quintessential NextGen success story, having started her career as an event services intern at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville in 2011 and working her way up to be named General Manager of the newly opened F&M Bank Arena in Clarksville, Tennessee."

Congratulations, Kylie, from IAVM Region 5!

NEWLY OPENED F&M BANK ARENA IN CLARKSVILLE, TN LAUNCHES INTO A BUSY MONTH FOLLOWING ITS GRAND OPENING

CLARKSVILLE - Newly opened F&M Bank Arena in Clarksville, TN launches into a busy month following its Grand Opening:

- Welcoming Disney On Ice for five performances.
- First ever concert event with Justin Moore's, "The You, Me, and Whiskey Tour"
- The Gold Star Showcase, an intrasquad game between Nashville Predators players benefiting the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.
- Wrapping up the month with Paw Patrol Live! "The Great Pirate Adventure"



Allied



Basketball Products International (BPI) recently installed new portable basketball backstops at EagleBank Arena – home of the George Mason University men's and women's basketball teams of the Atlantic 10 Conference.

SAVE THE DATE



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VENUE MANAGERS

REGIONS 1, 2, 3, & 5 | 2024 SUPER REGIONAL CONFERENCE | MAY 19 - 23, 2024



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ABOUT IAVM

Representing public assembly venues from around the globe, IAVM's active members include managers and senior executives from auditorium, arenas, convention centers, exhibit halls, stadiums, performing arts centers, university complexes, and amphitheaters.

ABOUT REGION 5

IAVM's Region 5 serves the states of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana as well as Central and South America.



IAVM Region 5 | 635 Fritz Dr., Suite 100, Coppell, TX 75019

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