CONVENTION CENTER

- A $140 million renovation and expansion of the Greater Columbus Convention Center was completed in July 2017. The 22-month project, highlighted by 373,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space, improves the guest experience with extensive upgrades, additions and hotel-grade finishes.

- The portion of the convention center that existed prior to the 2017 expansion has now earned LEED Silver Certification, joining the LEED Silver Certification that the expanded portion earned upon its completion. The Greater Columbus Convention Center has also announced its commitment to offset its entire electricity usage to wind energy.

- The Greater Columbus Convention Center is the first convention center in the world to become Certified Sensory Inclusive through KultureCity. A more inclusive, seamless and enjoyable experience will now be available to guests with sensory processing challenges thanks to improvements in the capabilities of the facility and staff to accommodate these guests.

- Restrooms at the Greater Columbus convention Center are now stocked with free, 100% organic and biodegradable feminine hygiene products from Columbus-based Aunt Flow.

HOTELS

- A 468-room expansion of the Hilton Columbus Downtown, a headquarter hotel of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, will bring the total number of convention hotel rooms on the property to 1,000 and total meeting space to 75,000 square feet. The new tower, opening in 2022, will offer a rooftop event space and expand upon the existing contemporary design and continue the award-winning service currently enjoyed while providing new and exciting amenities to existing, new and larger organizations. An "open fire" restaurant will anchor the expansion.

- A 167-room Canopy by Hilton featuring four suites; three deluxe and flexible meeting spaces totaling 1,850 square feet of space; two dining experiences, including private rooftop dining rooms; transfer lounge with lockers and private showers for guests who arrive early and The Retreat for guests seeking a quiet space, is now open across from the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

- A 171-room Graduate Hotel with two food and beverage outlets, including a Shake Shack, and 4,000 square feet of meeting space is now open in Columbus’ Short North neighborhood.

- The Moxy Columbus Short North, a “boutique hotel with the social heart of a hostel” by Marriott, is now open with 116 guest rooms and 800 square feet of meeting space. A rooftop bar will open next year.

- A new development on Park Street across from the North Market in downtown Columbus will include a 160-room AC Hotel by Marriott to open in early 2021.
OFF-SITE VENUES

• Opening in 2020, The Fives will be the largest event venue in downtown Columbus with a dedicated rooftop space. Located at the Reach on Goodale, where White Castle is building its new home office, The Fives will be operated by Together & Company and accommodate seated events for 400+ and receptions for up to 750 guests. The rooftop terrace, with unparalleled views of the city skyline, can host receptions for 300+ guests.

• A new food destination from Cameron Mitchell Restaurants will open in the city’s emerging Italian Village neighborhood in April 2020. The historic Budd Dairy building will be transformed into the Budd Dairy Food Hall, a restaurant incubator offering spaces for entrepreneurial, chef-driven concepts, and will also include a live-performance stage, multiple bars, interactive games, private event space and a rooftop deck.

ENTERTAINMENT

• The National Veterans Memorial and Museum is the only place in the world where the stories of our veterans, their families and the Fallen – across all branches of service and all eras of conflict – are told together. At more than 50,000 square feet, the facility offers space for events, opportunities for reflection and exhibition galleries.

• Columbus’ premier shopping destination, Easton, is expanding with a new 16-acre mixed use development that will include shopping, dining, a public green space for events, a hotel and residential units. The first wave of tenants, opening this month, will include the state’s first RH Gallery from Restoration Hardware, a 136-room Aloft Hotel, a Pins Mechanical co./16-Bit Bar + Arcade, The Beeline indoor/outdoor bar and entertainment space, Ivan Kane’s Forty Deuce Café and Speakeasy and Forbidden Root Restaurant & Brewery. Oprah-backed True Food Kitchen will join the mix by 2020.

• The North Market will receive an 11,000-square-foot expansion, including 3,900 square feet for more merchants, 4,400 square feet of public and event space and 3,300 square feet of outdoor space for outdoor activities, by 2022 as part of a larger $92-million mixed-use project that will feature a 210-room boutique hotel, residential units and office space.

• Plans are moving forward for a new stadium for MLS’ Columbus Crew SC in downtown’s Arena District. The 20,000 seat stadium will be part of a larger mixed-use development behind Huntington Park and will host its first game in July 2021. Unique features will include a continuous wraparound roof, four stands with various seating features, a closed seating bowl, 360-degree concourse, event space, a 3,400-capacity standing section - along with two patio decks and a “Nordecke Beer Garden” (a first for Major League Soccer) - and a 5,000-square-foot brew hall that will also be open on non-match days.
NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

- PCMA has chosen Columbus to host its 2023 Convening Leaders from Jan. 8-11 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.
- Columbus is proud to have hosted 5,500 attendees for the the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) 2019 Annual Meeting & Exposition from Aug. 10-13, 2019 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.
- Columbus hosted 80,000+ fans at Nationwide Arena for the 2018 NCAA Women's Final Four, March 30-April 1, 2018.
- The 2018 National Urban League Conference brought 5,000 visitors to the city and added $3.6 million to the local economy. The booking represents the latest under Experience Columbus’ LEAD it Home initiative designed to encourage locals with connections to national associations to bring their groups to Columbus.
- The Assemblies of God have chosen Columbus to host the 2020 National Youth Convention and Fine Arts Festival and 2023 General Council, together generating nearly 27,000 room nights.

RECENT ACCOLADES

- Travel Channel, Top 10 Domestic Destinations for 2020
- American Planning Association, Great Places in America (Short North)
- TIME, Greatest Places in the World 2019 (BrewDog DogHouse Hotel & Brewery)
- Cvent, Top 50 Meetings Destinations in the U.S. (No. 37)
- SmartAsset, Best American City to Work in Tech
- Orbitz, Top 10 Cities for Pride in 2019
- New York Times, 52 Places to Go in 2019
- Chicago Tribune, 9 Must-See Destinations Worth a Visit in 2019
- TripAdvisor, 20 of the Top Places to Visit in the U.S. in 2019
- Food & Wine, 32 Places to Go (And Eat) in 2019
- Forbes, Top 10 Rising Cities for Tech Startups (No. 1)
- Resonance Consultancy, America’s Best Large Cities 2018
- Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge, Grant Winner
- Marriott, Top Destination for Solo Female Travelers

*Columbus, OH received the highest numerical score among 8 cities in the Midwest in the J.D. Power 2016 Destination Experience Satisfaction Study, based on 26,124 total responses, measuring the experiences and perceptions of travelers who visited a top 50 U.S. destination, surveyed February-July 2016. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

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