**WHAT’S NEW IN COLUMBUS**

**CONVENTION CENTER**

- The entirety of the convention center **LEED Silver Certification**. The Greater Columbus Convention Center has also announced its commitment to offset its entire electricity usage to wind energy.
- The Greater Columbus Convention Center was 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.
- The 650-space **Ohio Center Garage**, which connects by enclosed skybridge to the center's Battelle Grand Balcony Level, is now open, bringing on-site parking to 4,700 spots.
- The Greater Columbus Convention Center has received their **GBAC STAR™ Accreditation**, the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response and recovery accreditation for facilities.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- MLS' Columbus Crew now has a new home in downtown's Arena District. **Lower.com Field** opened July 3, 2021 and the 20,000-seat stadium will be part of a larger mixed-use development behind Huntington Park. Unique features include a continuous wraparound roof, a 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.
- Columbus’ premier shopping destination, **Easton**, has added 16-acres of mixed-use development featuring shopping, dining, a public green space for events, a hotel and residential units. The first wave of tenants includes 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, Forbidden Root Restaurant & Brewery and Oprah-backed True Food Kitchen.
- **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.
- A **$500M Scioto Peninsula project** has broken ground with a decade of work ahead. The massive project will add millions of square feet in a new urban district that extends downtown to the west.
- Columbus’ **TownHall** in the Short North Arts District is now open and features 100% non-GMO fare, all organic produce and options to accommodate nearly every diet, from plant-based and low-glycemic, to Keto and Paleo.
WHAT’S NEW IN COLUMBUS

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 an “open fire” restaurant.

• Upon completion of the new Hilton Columbus Downtown tower, the existing tower will receive a full renovation so as to create a seamless guest experience between the two buildings. In addition, a new and enlarged Executive Lounge will replace the existing bar to provide convenient access to guests in both towers and the restaurant will be converted to reception space under a 12,000 sf glass atrium roof, as the new building will host four spectacular new restaurants and lounges.

• 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 this year.

• The 160-room AC Hotel by Marriott is now open in a new development on Park Street across from the North Market in downtown Columbus and features a rooftop bar.

OFF-SITE VENUES

• The Fives is the largest event venue in downtown Columbus with a dedicated rooftop space. Located at the Reach on Goodale, where White Castle has built its new home office, The Fives is operated by Together & Company and accommodates 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 is now open in the city’s emerging Italian Village neighborhood. The historic Budd Dairy building has been transformed into the Budd Dairy Food Hall, a restaurant incubator offering spaces for entrepreneurial, chef-driven concepts, and also includes a live-performance stage, multiple bars, interactive games, private event space and a rooftop deck.
WHAT’S NEW IN COLUMBUS

TRANSPORTATION

• Delta has added a new daily nonstop flight from John Glenn Columbus International Airport to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.
• John Glenn Columbus International Airport has been selected for the launch of airline start-up Breeze Airways. The low-cost airline will offer point-to-point flights from smaller secondary airports for shorter travel times with nonstop routes to Charleston, SC, Hartford, CT, Norfolk, VA, Tampa, FL and New Orleans.
• John Glenn Columbus International Airport is sourcing 100% of its energy supply from renewable sources and expects to save nearly $13 million in energy costs.

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 American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) 2019 Annual Meeting & Exposition from Aug. 10-13, 2019 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.
• In July 2020, the national spotlight shined on Columbus as we welcomed The Basketball Tournament (TBT), creating the year’s first basketball bubble in our city executing a robust health and safety plan and make sure TBT staff, athletes and personnel felt welcomed with open arms, even while physically distanced, during the successful 10-day tournament.
• The Assemblies of God chose 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

• 2020 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award (John Glenn Columbus International Airport)
• USA Today, Best Science Museums (COSI) 2020, 2021
• Readers Digest, Best American City for Live Music
• New York Times, Best Places for Millennials to Live and Work (No. 6)
• 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)
• Money: Under 30, Top LGBTQ-friendly city for millennials
• Cvent, Top 50 Meetings Destinations in the U.S. (No. 37)
• SmartAsset, Best American City to Work in Tech
• 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

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