

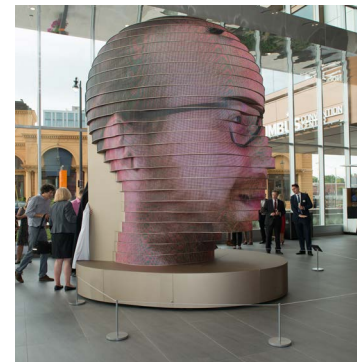
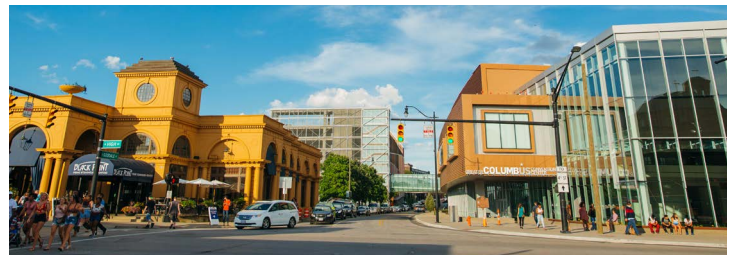


WHAT'S NEW IN COLUMBUS?



CONVENTION CENTER

- A [\\$140 million renovation and expansion](#) of the Greater Columbus Convention Center is now complete. The 22-month project, highlighted by 373,000 sq. ft. of contiguous exhibit space, was completed on schedule and the extensive upgrades and additions will improve the guest experience with hotel-grade finishes. Additional highlights include:
 - New show offices overlooking exhibit halls.
 - Creation of a Nursing Mother's Room.
 - Nine new meeting rooms with outside windows, for a total of 75 meeting rooms.
 - An 800-space, \$18 million parking garage connected to the center by skybridge.
 - Local food and beverage concepts in addition to 150+ pieces of local art displayed on the interior and exterior of the building and parking garages to give attendees a better sense-of-place while they are in the center.
- An interactive 14-foot sculpture titled "As We Are" is now permanently on display in the convention center's north atrium. Conceived by local artist Matthew Mohr, the piece, shaped like a universal human head, is made from ribbons of ultrabright LED screens and equipped with a photo booth capable of taking 3-D portraits, which are then projected on the face of "As We Are."
- Food-service provider Levy has installed a Smartfarm at the center's new Discovery Café. As the first convention center in the country with an indoor hydroponic vertical farm, the team yields about 5,000 pounds of produce per year and donates unused items to local charities.



ENTERTAINMENT

- The Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens has a new offering for families. The 2-acre Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden features 16 different interactive experiences celebrating the Ohio landscape and focuses on introducing and connecting children to the natural world.
- Through a unique and groundbreaking relationship with the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), COSI, the Center of Science and Industry, includes a permanent, 22,000-sq.-ft. AMNH Dinosaur Gallery, and the first AMNH Special Exhibition Gallery exhibit, Traveling The Silk Road, is now open through September 2018.
- A 36,000-sq.-ft. LEGOLAND Discovery Center will open in September at Easton Town Center. Billed as the ultimate indoor LEGO playground, the site includes two rides, 10 LEGO build and play zones, a 4D cinema and more.
- [The National Veterans Memorial & Museum](#) is currently under construction on downtown Columbus' Scioto peninsula, to be complete by late 2018. This museum will be the only place where the stories of our veterans, their families and the Fallen – across all branches of service and all eras of conflict – will be told together.



WHAT'S NEW IN COLUMBUS?



HOTELS

- A [470-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 1,002. The current design calls for a new 22-story tower to be built adjacent to the convention center, across from the existing Hilton Columbus Downtown. Groundbreaking is planned for this fall, with the new convention hotel section opening 2022.
- A [168-room Canopy by Hilton](#), featuring a total of 3,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, including a rooftop bar and outdoor patio, is set to open across from the Greater Columbus Convention Center in early 2019.
- The Moxy Columbus Short North, a “boutique hotel with the social heart of a hostel” by Marriott, is set to open July 2019 with 118 guest rooms, meeting space and a rooftop restaurant.
- BrewDog will open the world’s first crowd-funded craft beer hotel and sour brewery in August. The project will have 50 rooms and cost about \$6 million, and will be part of the brewery’s only U.S. location in Canal Winchester, southeast of downtown Columbus.
- A 171-room Graduate Hotel with two food and beverage outlets and 4,000 sq. ft. of meeting space will open in Columbus’ Short North neighborhood mid-2019.
- A new [development breaking ground soon](#) on Park Street across from the North Market in downtown Columbus includes plans for a 160-room AC Hotel by Marriott to open late summer 2019.



OFF-SITE VENUES

- German Village’s The Kitchen will soon open a [new event space, The Studio](#), beside its current location. The Studio will be smaller than The Kitchen’s 4,200 sq. ft., and designed for intimate, catered events.
- This summer, The Candle Lab will open a new 5,000-sq.-ft. store directly across from the Greater Columbus Convention Center. It will be specifically designed to handle group business and have basement event space with catering and a liquor license that can accommodate up to 150 guests.
- This fall, [Wolf’s Ridge Brewing in downtown Columbus will debut a 3,700-sq.-ft. expansion](#), designed specifically to host seated events with up to 80 people, and cocktail parties for as many as 120 people.
- The iconic Smith Bros. Hardware Building near the convention center in downtown Columbus now offers a four-season event venue on the roof of the six-story structure. Featuring a retractable roof and walls and breathtaking views of the downtown skyline, the venue offers approximately 5,200 sq. ft. of space inside, and 2,000 sq. ft. outside.



TRANSPORTATION

- Free, on-demand transportation is available on all-electric [Hopper Carts](#) and FreeRide Columbus’ open-air golf carts.
- The AirConnect express circulator runs every 30 minutes between John Glenn Columbus International Airport, the Greater Columbus Convention Center and downtown hotels.



WHAT'S NEW IN COLUMBUS?



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

- Columbus has been chosen to host the [American Society of Association Executives \(ASAE\) 2019 Annual Meeting & Exposition](#). More than 5,000 attendees will convene at the renovated Greater Columbus Convention Center in August 2019, filling 16,800 hotel rooms.
- Avon's 2018 Repfest will bring 5,000 attendees, totaling 8,571 room nights, to the Greater Columbus Convention Center and Nationwide Arena this July.
- The [2018 National Urban League Conference](#) will be held in Columbus in August of this year and is expected to bring 5,000 visitors to the city and add \$3.6 million to the local economy. The booking represents the latest under Experience Columbus' "[Make it Columbus](#)" initiative designed to encourage locals with connections to national associations to bring their groups to Columbus.
- 2,750 attendees of the CNH Industrial 2019 Parts & Services Expo will fill 11,935 room nights in Columbus in January.
- Multiple medical groups have chosen Columbus for their annual conventions, including, the American Dental Hygienists Association in 2018, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association in 2018, the American Academy of Audiology in 2019 and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine in 2021.
- The Assemblies of God have chosen Columbus to host two large conventions: the 2020 National Youth Convention and Fine Arts Festival and 2023 General Council. Both conventions together will generate nearly 27,000 room nights.
- Columbus hosted 80,000+ fans at Nationwide Arena for the [2018 NCAA Women's Final Four](#), March 30-April 1, 2018.

 **asae**[®]
**annual
meeting
& exposition**

AUG. 10-13, 2019
COLUMBUS
GREATER COLUMBUS
CONVENTION CENTER



RECENT ACCOLADES

- Marriott, [Top Destination for Solo Female Travelers](#)
- Architectural Digest, [15 Most Noteworthy Museums Opening This Year](#) (National Veterans Memorial & Museum)
- Airbnb, [Hottest Destinations of 2018](#)
- TripAdvisor, [30 Top USA Cities to Visit in 2018](#)
- Expedia, [America's 16 Most Tourist Friendly Cities](#)
- Wall Street Journal, [50 Best Places in the World to Eat Your Vegetables](#) (Little Eater)
- Trivago, [10 Under the "Gaydar" LGBTQ Cities](#)
- Realtor.com, [Top 10 Cities for New College Grads](#)
- Travel Channel, [Best Botanical Gardens in the U.S.](#) (Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens)
- J.D. Power 2016 Destination Experience Satisfaction Study, ["Highest in Visitor Satisfaction in the Midwest"](#)*
- TIME, [6 Best Big Cities](#)
- Conde Nast Traveler, [The 18 Most Underrated Cities in the U.S.](#) (No. 7)
- Orbitz, [Top 10 Best U.S. Cities for a Long Weekend](#)
- Smart Meetings, [15 Great Cities to Meet In](#)

**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](#).*