CONVENTION CENTER

• The Greater Columbus Convention Center is now managed by ASM Global, an organization formed by the combination of SMG and AEG Facilities.

• The portion of the convention center that existed prior to the 2017 expansion has 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.

• The 650-space Ohio Center Garage, which connects by enclosed skybridge to the center’s Battelle Grand Balcony Level, will open February 25. This will bring on-site parking to 4,700 spots.

ENTERTAINMENT

• MLS’ Columbus Crew SC will have a new home in downtown’s Arena District by July 2021. The 20,000-seat stadium will be part of a larger mixed-use development behind Huntington Park. Unique features will 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 and Forbidden Root Restaurant & Brewery. Oprah-backed True Food Kitchen will join the mix this year.

• 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.
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 building will receive a full renovation. Changes include replacing the hotel bar with an executive lounge, moving the current atrium restaurant, Gallerie Bar & Bistro, to the new tower and replacing it with innovative meeting space inspired by Columbus’ beautiful parks.

- 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.

- 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

- 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 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.
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.
• 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

• 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)
• 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
• J.D. Power 2016 Destination Experience Satisfaction Study, “Highest in Visitor Satisfaction in the Midwest”*

*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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