



KNOXVILLE CONVENTION CENTER

NEWS RELEASE

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KNOXVILLE CONVENTION CENTER RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

The Knoxville Convention Center is one of 27 facilities managed by SMG to be selected to receive Prime Site Awards from Facilities and Destinations Magazine.

Meeting planners from associations, corporations and other organizations vote on the award based on venue quality, features and services. It recognizes the top convention, exposition and exhibition centers throughout North America and the Caribbean.

"This award is a tribute to this first-class facility, support from SMG corporate, and the hard work and commitment of the Knoxville Convention Center staff," said General Manager Mary Bogert.

"As we celebrate our fifth anniversary, we are proud of the significant progress we have made in increased revenue, bookings, and economic impact of events. This award is another indication of that progress."

Revenue and bookings are up 11 percent over last year, Bogert said, and the economic impact of events measured by the Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corporation are up to \$146 million from \$131 million during the same period.

Wes Westley, president and CEO of SMG, announced the SMG awards.

"There is simply no argument - SMG is the leading meeting venue management company," Facilities and

Destinations Magazine reported. "Every year, SMG venues consistently win more Prime Site Awards than those of any other single facility management company, and this year is no exception."

Gregg Caren, senior vice president of strategic business development for SMG, said:

"We are quite proud of the people and systems in place throughout our network. When we offer our services to a municipality or venue owner, we promote the relationships we have with planners and the quality of service they receive from us. It's really gratifying to have that validated through planner feedback to an independent survey."

Along with the Knoxville Convention Center, other SMG-managed facilities recognized by Facilities and Destinations Magazine included the Atlantic City Convention Center, the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Hawaii Convention Center, Long Beach Convention Center, Meadowlands Exposition Center, Memphis Cook Convention Center, Miami Beach Convention Center, Palm Springs Convention Center, and the Moscone Center in San Francisco, among others.

Headquartered in Philadelphia, SMG provides management services to over 200 public assembly facilities including arenas, stadiums, performing arts centers, theatres and convention, conference and trade centers. As the recognized industry leader since 1977, SMG provides construction and design consulting, pre-opening services, venue management, sales and marketing and event booking and programming. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through our in house catering company, Savor...catering by SMG, currently servicing 65 accounts worldwide. With facilities across the United States, and in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada, Europe and the Middle East, SMG controls over 1.5 million entertainment seats worldwide and manages more than ten million feet of exhibition space.

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