



Newsletter

Colorado New Mexico Oklahoma Arkansas Texas Kansas Mexico

October 2018

Calling All Region 6 Allied Members!!

We are looking for an interested Region 6 allied member to join The Region 6 Board as an “Allied Representative.” If you have an interest, are an active IAVM member and based within Region 6’s boundaries please send a note to Kerry Painter at Kpainter@smgtulsa.com. We look forward to giving a voice to some of our most valued members!

The Curtis Culwell Center Kicks Off the Fall with a Busy September



For the third year in a row, The Garden Bros. Circus made a stop at the CCC. One of the few circuses that still showcase elephants as one of their many spectacles brought over 7,500 guests to the facility. The performers entertained families for six shows over two days.



On September 8th international superstar composer and singer AR Rahman rocked a sold-out crowd at the CCC. The Golden Globe, Grammy, and Oscar winner performed new hits as well as his award winning soundtrack from the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*.



The end of September was highlighted by the SGI USA Lions of Justice Festival. This inaugural event celebrated thousands of youth’s involvement in human rights education, peace activities and other pillars of the Buddhist principles. The Curtis Culwell Center was one of nine venues around the USA simultaneously hosting the festival for 50,000 youth.

AT&T Performing Arts Center Seeks Full-Time Front of House Manager

The Center is seeking a Front of House Manager to help oversee FOH operations at the Winspear Opera House, Wylie Theater and Annette Strauss Square. Given the flexible nature of the Center, this position will be responsible for other duties as and when necessary. Bachelor's Degree in related field and two or more years working in front of house operations for a large performing arts venue are preferred. For a full job description and to apply, visit: <https://www.attpac.org/about/careers-at-the-center/>

SCHULER SHOOK SEEKS THEATRE CONSULTANT, THEATRE SPECIALIST

Schuler Shook is an internationally recognized theatre consulting and architectural lighting design firm with extensive experience in the planning of performing arts facilities. Our Dallas office is seeking organized, detail-oriented technical theatre experts for Theatre Consultant and Theatre Specialist positions.

The Theatre Consultant position requires someone who understands the world of performing arts and how to manage projects well. A minimum of 5 years' experience as a theatre consultant or similar position is required.

The Theatre Specialist position requires organized, detail-oriented technical theatre experts with CAD and Revit drafting experience. A minimum of 5 years' experience in technical theatre and/or theatre/opera/dance production design is required.

Minimum education: Bachelor's degree. Interested? Please see details for both positions at <https://schulershook.com/contact>

LEADERS, CHECK YOUR MIRRORS!

By Steven G. Foster, CMP
Managing Partner, Foster+Fathom



One of the best things about riding motorcycles is the time you get "inside your head." I often use those moments reflecting on where I've been on my "professional ride," and remembering all the leaders and mentors who thought me worthy of investing their time, talent and treasure along the way.

No matter where you going, on a bike or in business, each one of needs help on the road to success. No one gets anywhere on their own, and anyone who says different is just arrogantly wrong. If you've been "there" someone pointed the way. And if you've done "that" someone taught you how.

Whenever I hear someone in a leadership position spout their own achievements without acknowledging the contributions of others; I know that person doesn't understand the first rule of motorcycling or leadership; check your mirrors!

Mirrors are one of the most important parts of a motorcycle. They reflect a thing as it really is in a very clear and accurate way. When riding, constantly scanning back and checking to make sure the pod is moving safely TOGETHER is critical to the success of the ride. Whether you're tasked with managing a team to improve customer service, steering a department through a difficult transition or working with peer professionals to increase organizational value; when it comes to leadership; improving "mirror awareness" is the most important habit you can develop.

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It's the fuel which powers peak team performance; focusing attention on the elements outside your immediate field of vision; everyone who ever helped get you to the front of the pod and those currently following your lead.

If you really want to measure your effectiveness as a leader, remember; attitude reflects leadership.

In biker terms;

WHEN YOU'RE RIDING LEAD, CHECK YOUR MIRRORS. AND, DON'T SPIT!

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McAllen Convention Center Hires New Director



The City of McAllen has hired Yajaira Flores its new Director of the McAllen Convention Center Facilities, which includes the McAllen Convention Center, the McAllen Performing Arts, and Oval Park and Quinta Mazatlán. Flores has more than 15 years of experience in public assembly facility management, strategic event planning and event marketing and can be regarded as a driving force behind some of the Rio Grande Valley's largest events and promotion initiatives.

“We are so excited to have Yajaira leading our Convention Center Facilities, bringing her unique perspective and professionalism back to McAllen, to continue to make our event and entertainment facilities the place to be for conferences, shows, festivals and events.”

Through the years, Flores has fostered partnerships with event promoters, city leaders and the community to see events developed from initial planning stages to realization.

She spearheaded the grand opening of the Bert Ogden Arena in her role as Director of Booking and Marketing for Bert Ogden Arena and H-E-B Park. She previously spent nine years working for the City of McAllen for the Convention Facilities Department which included the McAllen Convention Center, McAllen Performing Arts Center, and the old McAllen Civic Center Auditorium. In this role, she led the booking efforts for the new Performing Arts Center in its opening season.

Beginning in 2014, Flores has served as Adjunct Professor for the College of Business Administration – Marketing Department where she uses her expansive network to empower and educate marketing students at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg.

In addition to her B.B.A, Yajaira obtained a master's degree from the University of Texas – Pan American in Business Administration and is a 2018 graduate of the prestigious Venue Management School professional education program.

She is a member of several professional organizations including the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM), Meeting Planners International (MPI), International Entertainment Buyers Association (IEBA), International Festivals and Event Association (IFEA); however, her real passion lies in working with the community to develop and promote the arts and radically re-conceive the guest experience.

COX BUSINESS CENTER SEEKS DIRECTOR OF SALES

The Cox Business Center in downtown Tulsa is seeking a Director of Sales to coordinate the sales program with key community and hotel partners, and to help attract conventions, trade shows, consumer shows, corporate meetings and other short term business opportunities to the SMG Managed, IAVM Venue Excellence winning facility. For more information, and to apply, visit www.CoxCenterTulsa.com/careers.

THE BIGGEST EXECUTIVES IN THE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY CONGRATULATE BOK CENTER ON 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On this day in 2008, the legendary band, Eagles, played the first concert at BOK Center in front of a sold-out crowd. Since then, over 7.2 million fans have converged on Downtown Tulsa for 516 total concerts and family shows and more than 700 sporting events. As a result, downtown Tulsa has seen an influx of new energy and an infusion of upwards of \$1 billion in private development. BOK Center has emerged as one of the top concert destinations in the country and has been ranked as a top 20 arena for concert ticket sales every year since 2008. The venue has also been nominated for Arena of the Year continuously since opening, with the most recent Arena of the Year win coming from the International Entertainment Buyers Association (IEBA) in 2016.

"BOK Center's success over the past 10 years is a tribute to the fans who continue to purchase tickets to shows in record numbers," said Jeff Nickler BOK Center General Manager. "It's also a tribute to the community, corporate partners and premium seat holders who have embraced this building with open arms since day one."

BOK Center's continued success wouldn't have been possible without the multitude of agents and promoters who continue to believe in the strength of the Tulsa market and constantly deliver world-class concert content to Oklahoma. Several of those agents and promoters hold BOK Center in high regards, which is evident in the quotes below.

"BOK Center has been the home to 18 sold-out MTG shows – they not only treat our artists like gold, but their hospitality extends to the entire crew. I always love going there – it's my home away from home."

- Louis Messina, Messina Touring Group

"I am a big fan of BOK Center. When Live Nation Global Touring puts a show in Tulsa we can trust that everything will be handled perfectly, from the box office details and the on-sale to the incredible hospitality when the tours are on site. We have had a lot of fun over the years playing BOK with Madonna, Justin Timberlake, and Lady Gaga and even more fun launching tours there with Rush and U2. We look forward to promoting many more shows there in the future."

- Gerry Barad, Live Nation Global Touring

"It has been our absolute pleasure to visit BOK Center on a number of memorable occasions. We received a very warm welcome when we presented Cher for an amazingly successful concert there! We were fortunate to return with Sir Paul McCartney ---- where he enjoyed rapturous responses from the Tulsa audiences for his three sold out shows. The organization and world-class hospitality at BOK Center certainly enhances great memories. We look forward to the next time!!! Warmest good wishes for the 10th Anniversary."

- Barrie Marshall, Marshall Arts Ltd.

"Thank you all for the great kick off to our tour. It is all about desire and intent. All the team did a fantastic job. It was a successful opening night for U2, for Arthur and the crew."

- Ciaran Flaherty, U2

"BOK Center is unquestionably one of the more memorable stops on any of our tours. The venue and staff are A+ all around. In fact, not only do virtually all of our major shows play BOK (Billy Joel, Rod Stewart, Def Leppard, Motley Crue, etc.) we often begin our tours there because of the exceptional building and staff. In the recent past we have had both Rush and Daryl Hall & John Oates begin major tours in Tulsa, and in 2019, Metallica's first show of the year will be at BOK Center."

- Adam Kornfeld, Artist Group International

BOK CENTER NAMED ARENA OF THE YEAR AGAIN BY THE INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT BUYERS ASSOCIATION

BOK Center was named the Arena of the Year by the International Entertainment Buyers Association (IEBA) during the annual Honors and Awards Ceremony tonight in Nashville. The Tulsa venue was selected over an elite group of nominees that included Allstate Arena (Rosemont, IL), Golden 1 Center (Sacramento, CA), Madison Square Garden (New York, NY), The O2 (London, UK), Prudential Center (Newark, NJ) and T-Mobile Arena (Las Vegas, NV). BOK Center previously won this award in 2016 and this was the venue's fourth nomination for the prestigious industry honor that recognizes the top concert arena in the country.

IEBA is one of the leading non-profit trade organizations for live entertainment industry professionals. Founded in 1970 and based in Nashville, IEBA provides networking, showcasing and educational opportunities to strengthen relationships, foster growth and increase revenue for the live entertainment industry.

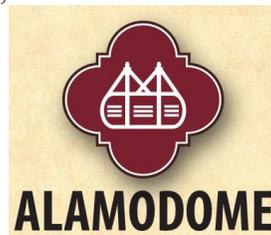
"To be recognized as Arena of the Year by IEBA is a tremendous honor for BOK Center, its staff and the City of Tulsa," said Tony Cima, Senior Vice President of Stadiums and Arenas for SMG. "This shows that Tulsa continues to be a leader for live entertainment and SMG is thrilled to be part of and continue that success story."

"As always, we have to thank the concert promoters and agents who continue to believe in the Tulsa market," added SMG Tulsa General Manager Jeff Nickler. "We have worked hard to bring a compelling line-up of shows to Oklahoma and are fortunate to be in a city where fans continue to purchase tickets in record numbers year after year."

As the venue celebrates its tenth birthday this year, BOK Center continues to maintain its status as one of the world's busiest concert arenas. In the *Pollstar* 2018 Q1 Top 100 Arena Venues based on ticket sales, BOK Center ranked #7 in the United States and #24 in the world. It has been a blockbuster year for concerts in Tulsa and already Blake Shelton, P!NK, U2, Justin Timberlake, George Strait, the Eagles and Imagine Dragons have stopped at the arena as part of the venue's "Ten for Ten" anniversary concert series. Tomorrow, legendary band Fleetwood Mac launches their North American tour at BOK Center and next week Bruno Mars visits town for two sold-out nights. Metallica and Elton John have also confirmed tour stops at the venue in 2019.

ALAMODOME LANDS 2021 WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR

The City of San Antonio and the Alamodome scored the 2021 NCAA Women's Final Four. The games will be played April 2 and 4 in the downtown stadium, which was the site of this year's 2018 Men's Final Four.



Above photo credit: Jeff Huehn

San Antonio's bid committee included San Antonio Sports, the City of San Antonio, Visit San Antonio, the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of the Incarnate Word. San Antonio hosted the Women's Final Four in 2002 and 2010, when it set the attendance record for the event with more than 29,600 fans attending the national semifinals. The Alamo City continues to be a fan favorite. The Alamodome's proximity to the world famous Riverwalk and thousands of hotel rooms offer easy access to tournament visitors.

ALAMODOME NAMES INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER



Stephen Zito has been named the Interim General Manager for the Alamodome. He previously served as the venue's Facility Manager. Steve has vast experience working at professional venues, such as the AT&T Center, the Fed Ex Arena, and his initial tenure opening the Alamodome in 1993. Steve brings a broad background in facility management, with a focus on enhancing the customer service experience.

COX BUSINESS CENTER ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS AND NEW DIRECTOR IN FOOD & BEVERAGE



Left to Right: Director of Food & Beverage Angela Boswell,
Senior Catering Sales Manager Sarah Kusler,
Retail Food & Beverage Manager Lucas Gibson

The Cox Business Center is proud to announce Angela Boswell as the new Director of Food & Beverage, Sarah Kusler as the new Senior Catering Sales Manager, and Lucas Gibson as Retail Food & Beverage Manager. Angela previously held the Senior Catering Sales Manager position, Sarah has been a Catering Sales Manager for the venue for nearly five years, and Lucas-who joined SMG Tulsa four years ago-was Bar Manager for both BOK Center and the Cox Business Center.

Offering exclusive in-house catering by SAVOR.... the downtown Tulsa venue also offers an Outrageously Excellent and multi-talented Food & Beverage team. Angela and Sarah both offer clients incredible attention to detail and offer outside expertise as well-Angela is a skilled floral designer and Sarah a skilled baker known for unique new twists on old favorites. Lucas is not only skilled behind a bar, but he's a great teacher as well and has taught mixology to clients, event planners and guests with both video and in-person drink tutorials. Lucas will now oversee and manage the Concessions and Bar department for the venue.

Besides the promotions, SMG Tulsa has Food & Beverage job openings for a Director of Food & Beverage (BOK Center), Assistant Retail Food & Beverage Manager, and a variety of part-time positions within the department. For more information, visit CoxCenterTulsa.com/careers.

Amarillo Civic Center Complex is Pleased to Announce the Promotion of Melinda Landry to Event Manager



Melinda Landry has recently been promoted to Event Manager at the Amarillo Civic Center Complex (ACCC). Melinda has been an Event Supervisor at the ACCC since January 2016. “Melinda has shown that she has great passion and insight in this industry, we are excited to see how she can apply her tenacity and skills in her new role,” said Christopher Post, CVP, Director of Operations. Melinda hopes to grow and learn more about the venue industry and be able to advance herself in the next five years.

Amarillo Civic Center Complex Welcomes New Assistant Production Managers



William Weatherholt joined the Amarillo Civic Center Complex (ACCC) in September as Assistant Production Manager. Weatherholt has worked as a stagehand at the ACCC since 2010. He has experience on all types of production, varying from sporting events, to operas, ballets, Broadway plays, and concerts.” I would like to advance my career as much as I can at the ACCC and look forward to the possibilities that are ahead of me,” said Weatherholt. His goals are to improve the Production Department and build up the stagehands to help with the fluidity of the diverse events.



Daniel Meggers was born and raised in Amarillo, TX. Meggers joined the ACCC as Assistant Production Manager in September. He has worked with multiple entities, such as Amarillo Symphony, Amarillo Opera, Lone Star Ballet, Amarillo College Conservatory Theater, and Summer Youth Musical. Meggers has over 18 years of experience in production. “He has a wide variety of experience and is committed to the success of our facility,” said Cliff McElhaney, Production Manager.

Khalid's Hometown Show in El Paso, Texas Sells Out in Minutes



Photo Credit: Ivan Pierre Aguirre / UTEP

GRAMMY® nominee and 20-year-old acclaimed singer-songwriter Khalid brought his 915 Hometown Show to a sold out Don Haskins Center crowd on Sept. 14 and 15. This marked Khalid's first time performing at the arena.



Photo Credit: Ivan Pierre Aguirre / UTEP

The University of Texas at El Paso's President Diana Natalicio, Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Edens, Ed.D. and Executive Director of Special Events Jorge Vazquez welcomed Khalid to the Don Haskins Center before he took the stage.

Houston's Wortham Theater Center Re-Opens One Year After Hurricane Harvey



Mayor Sylvester Turner greets everyone during the opening ceremony



Dancers are once again seen at the Wortham Center



Houston First President and CEO Brenda Bazan welcomes members of the staff and performers who make up the Wortham family

In September Houston First Corporation welcomed employees, stakeholders and performing arts groups back "home" to Houston's downtown Wortham Theater Center one year after Hurricane Harvey. The homecoming celebrated the Wortham's recovery efforts and unveiled the theater's dramatic restoration progress in time for the 2018-2019 performance season.

(Continued, page 9...)

As a result of Hurricane Harvey, the Wortham sustained over 12 feet of floodwater causing extensive damage to the venue's interior and the tunnel access to underground garages. Additionally, damages to the basement area, which housed critical building systems as well as resident dressing rooms and costumes shops, led to the theater's immediate closure for repairs. HFC, which manages and operates the Wortham, retained construction services to remove the water, stabilize the building and start recovery efforts.

During the Wortham's restoration, both the Houston Grand Opera (HGO) and the Houston Ballet relocated their performances to alternative sites. HGO transformed an exhibit hall within the George R. Brown Convention Center into an intimate performance space for an "unconventional opera." There they hosted three operas: Verdi's *La Traviata*, Handel's *Julius Caesar*, and the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek's *The House without a Christmas Tree*. The Houston Ballet chose to hold performances of holiday favorite *The Nutcracker* at the Hobby Center and Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land, Texas. Meanwhile, DaCamera, Mercury Baroque, the Society of Performing Arts and all other productions restructured plans for respective seasons to accommodate repairs.

The Wortham Theater Center reopened its doors on September 26 with the Houston Grand Opera's presentation of world-renowned tenor Plácido Domingo.

Allen Event Center Welcomes New Premium Level Coordinator



Lindsay Nieman has been named the new Premium Level Coordinator at Allen Event Center. Lindsay will supervise the operations of the Premium Level suites and club seats and backstage services for guests and performers at the venue.

Lindsay brings extensive hospitality industry knowledge and experience, having worked in key management positions at Uncle Julio's Restaurant, Starbucks and Whole Foods. A graduate of Texas Tech University, Lindsay holds a degree in Restaurant, Hotel and Institutional Management (RHIM).

Building Ice and Relationships: A Week in the Life of an Ice Ops Coordinator



Allen Event Center's Ice Operations Coordinator, Kelly Dennis, recently spent time installing a sheet of ice, but not in his own building. Dennis, 297 miles away from Allen, Texas, was assisting the ice techs at AT&T Center in San Antonio as they prepared for the upcoming American Hockey League season.

"They had seen our article in IAVM's July issue about our more efficient approach to ice builds and wanted to know if we could show it to them," Dennis said. "It's always great to work with other facilities and to share tips and tricks."

Using Allen Event Center's make-shift Jet Ice system, Dennis and the four-member AT&T Center ice crew completed their ice build in just three days.

"This one-week road trip was about more than ice builds," Dennis added. "It allowed us to create an ongoing dialogue that will provide both venues with valuable ideas and resources in the future."

First National Bank Arena Welcomes New Faces, New Positions



Morgan Rhodes



Mary Martin



Bettye McKinney

Changes and growth continue at First National Bank Arena in Jonesboro, Arkansas. From the recent name change to the addition of their new Director Jim Brown, the arena's growth is evident with new faces and new positions added to the team at Arkansas State University.

This September, ASU welcomed Jonesboro-native, Morgan Rhodes, as the new marketing director for First National Bank Arena. Rhodes graduated from Valley View High School in 2012 and pursued both her undergraduate and graduate degree in journalism with a focus in advertising and public relations from the University of Arkansas. Her time in Northwest Arkansas consisted of nonprofit work, along with experience from Tyson Foods and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. She spent the last year and a half advocating for foster children as the public relations director at the Children's Emergency Shelter in Fort Smith, Arkansas. In her free time, she enjoys anything outdoors, trying new recipes, reading books in one sitting, and a good cup of coffee with good people. "I'm so thankful for the experiences I was given in Northwest Arkansas, but Jonesboro is home to me. I'm thrilled to be able to serve my hometown in this new opportunity, it's an exciting time to be in Jonesboro," Rhodes said.

Long time staff member, Mary Martin, was also promoted to the new Associate Director of Finance this spring. Martin is from Paragould, Arkansas, and is an Arkansas State University graduate. She spent 25 years in a family-owned, local bottling plant before joining FNB arena as the fiscal support analyst. After five years in that position she was promoted as the research project analyst where she worked for two years. "I've had a lot of good people at the university that were always willing to help," Martin said. In her spare time the animal lover enjoys antique shopping and spending time with her nieces and nephews. "If I could spend my life doing charity work, I'd do it with the elderly or animals," she said.

Bettye McKinney is another team member at FNB arena. On June 28, 1987, McKinney began her 31 years of dedication to the arena as athletic support staff. This spring, McKinney was promoted to the special events coordinator. She was born and raised in Jonesboro, Arkansas, is the second youngest of 12 children, and grew up fishing with her younger brother. On her days off the licensed hair dresser enjoys relaxing, working in the yard and spending time with her niece in California.

Berry Center hires Jasmine Shannon as event coordinator



Berry Center of Northwest Houston hired Jasmine Shannon as an event coordinator to assist in the responsibility of booking and managing events at the venue. Jasmine comes to Berry Center from Amarillo Civic Complex where she spent two years as an event supervisor. Jasmine has a Bachelor of Arts in theatre design and technology from West Texas A&M University and has more than four years of experience in planning, managing, and assisting in large-scale productions and events. Her diversity of skills and willingness to serve clients at a high level of professionalism are great assets to the Berry Center team. Welcome Jasmine, we're glad you're here!

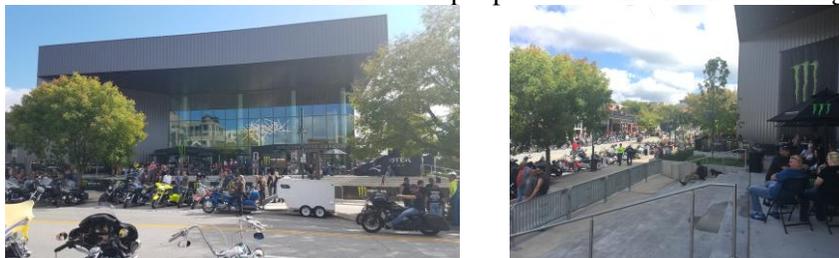
Walton Arts Center and Walmart AMP Host Events for Bikers

One weekend each fall, Dickson Street starts to rumble as motorcycles descend upon Fayetteville for the annual Bikes, Blues & BBQ motorcycle rally. Located at the epicenter of the world's largest charity motorcycle rally, Walton Arts Center and the Walmart AMP found some creative ways to get involved in this year's event.

The festival began in 2000 as a charity poker run event with more than 200 riders, and has grown rapidly through the years now with more than 300,000 people attending.

“After the completion of the Walton Arts Center renovation in 2016, the rally came to us and proposed a partnership to take advantage of the new Center's connectivity to Dickson Street,” said Nick Zazal, director of events & patron services, “We began the partnership with a beer garden activation and hosting the rally's VIP Lounge in 2017, but we knew we could expand on that experience this year.”

Walton Arts Center expanded the partnership with the rally for this year and offered several activations including a VIP lounge located in the Pace Balcony overlooking Dickson Street. The VIP package included an invitation to the VIP ride, complimentary food, a private bar with daily drink specials, reserved parking and one of the best views of the rally in a climate-controlled environment. More than 500 people used VIP amenities during the rally.



Dropbox link to more pictures:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/grmwax1qf1nivw4/AACaGQc1xTSC-OUPJI5mukOva?dl=0>

The atrium turned into a public display space for rally goers to view collectible motorcycles and motorcycle art, watch a local artist as he created a special piece of art for the rally and the chance to see a top fuel dragster and meet the driver, NHRA Top Fuel Champion Brittany Force.

The outdoor patio at Walton Arts Center also transformed into the Monster Party Patio – a beer garden and a popular viewing platform for the four-day festival. More than 7,100 came to the patio during the event. Proceeds from the drink and food sales go to support the nonprofit organization's arts education programming.

As finale to the weekend, the Walmart AMP hosted Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Marshall Tucker Band and Jason D. Williams. The concert was popular with locals as well as rally participants with more than 9,000 tickets sold.

New Addition at Toyota Center



Toyota Center is excited to announce the hire of Ryan Thormaehlen as the new Event Services Coordinator. Ryan was the Event Services Intern for the 2017-2018 season at Toyota Center and his excellent work brought him back as a full-time employee. Ryan graduated from the University of Texas in Sports Management and recently earned his Masters of Business Administration at Texas State University. His work ethic and positive attitude will bring continued success to the department.

Toyota Center Turns 15!



On October 6, Toyota Center officially turned 15. The premiere entertainment arena located in Houston, Texas is the home of the Houston Rockets and has played host to many exceptional events over the last 15 years. Prince, Rolling Stones, 2 NBA All-Star Games, the Latin Grammys, 8 Garth Brooks shows in 2015, U2, UFC 69, Justin Timberlake, Madonna, Elton John/Billy Joel and many Houston Rockets playoff games are some highlights that have created memories for many.

Toyota Center is excited to continue to bring world-class events to downtown Houston and look forward to the years ahead. The arena will reopen their newly-renovated Lexus Lounge to start the Houston Rockets season. 2018 will conclude in December with two sold-out Elton John shows, two Trans-Siberian Orchestra performances and a Christmas Day Houston Rockets game against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Some fun facts about Toyota Center:

1. Toyota Center officially broke ground on July 31, 2001
2. An estimated 2,500 workers worked to build Toyota Center
3. First event held at Toyota Center was Fleetwood Mac on October 6, 2003
4. First Houston Rockets game was October 30, 2003 against the Denver Nuggets
5. First Houston Rockets playoff game was April 17, 2004
6. Shania Twain, Luis Miguel and Trans-Siberian Orchestra are the only three musical acts to play Toyota Center in 2003 AND 2018
7. Toyota Center welcomed more than 1.5 million fans during its first year alone
8. Toyota Center has the largest lower level of any arena in the NBA
9. Barbra Streisand's 2016 show is the highest-grossing show in Toyota Center's history
10. The last 21 Super Bowl halftime performers have all played Toyota Center at one point in their career



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Thank you newsletter contributors this month!

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Robert McDowell – AT&T Performing Arts Center
Xochitl Mora – City of McAllen, McAllen Convention Center
Brian Nickerson – Allen Event Center
Han Owens – Amarillo Civic Center Complex
Kerry Painter – Region 6 Director and Cox Business Center
Morgan Rhodes – First National Bank Arena
Hunter Segesta – Toyota Center
Julian Valdez – University of Texas at El Paso, Don Haskins Center
Kevin Welch – Curtis Culwell Center
Jennifer Wilson – Walton Arts Center/Walmart AMP

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