


[Sign in](#) | [Register for free](#)
[Site Search](#)
[Search Local Business Listings](#)
[f Sign in with Facebook](#)
 Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more..

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Interact](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Classified Ads](#) | [Shop](#)
[News](#) | [Michigan News](#) | [City of Detroit](#) | [Wayne County](#) | [Oakland County](#) | [Macomb County](#) | [Crime](#) | [Lottery](#) | [Weather](#) | [Education](#)

Top
Stories



Datsyuk leads Wings past Crosby-less Penguins, 4-1



GOP plan: 93K in Michigan would lose jobless benefits...



Like MLive's Detroit Lions Facebook page

[Home](#) > [Detroit News](#) > [Region: City of Detroit](#)

Renovated Cobo Center gearing up for Detroit's 2012 North American International Auto Show

Published: Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 7:04 PM Updated: Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 1:54 AM



By **Michael Wayland** | [MLive.com](#)

[Follow](#)

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

[Tweet](#) 16

1

7

[Share](#)

[Email](#)

[Print](#)

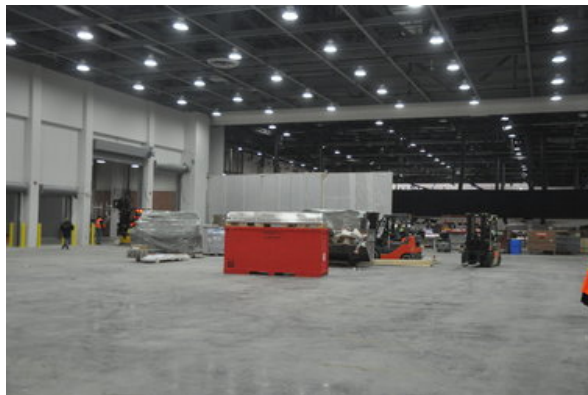
Visitors to the **2012 North American International Auto Show** in Detroit next month will get a glimpse of the best vehicles in the industry, as well as their first look at the newly renovated Cobo Center.

The well-known **Detroit** venue -- particularly **made popular by Kiss** -- is in the final stage of a more than **\$300 million renovation**, which includes a 25,000-square-foot expansion and other renovations that are expected to be ready for the January auto show.

"We're pleased with the progress," said Thom Connors, Cobo Center general manager, as he guided a group of journalists through the venue Tuesday afternoon. "There's every indication that this year's show is bigger and better; and the displays, and what you are seeing here, are among the finest that are put together anywhere in the world for an industrial trade show."

Other improvements expected to be ready for this year's show include 400 additional parking spaces; enclosed loading docks, which help keep the inside warmer; a walkway to Joe Louise Arena, which **Ford Motor Co.** is expected to use; an electrical overhaul for more elaborate displays; and numerous other cosmetic improvements, such as new windows and repairs.

Connors said the enclosed loading docks have reduced energy costs 15 to 20 percent for the past two months, and helped the center recently achieve its certification as a "Green Venue" from the



[View full size](#)

Michael Wayland | [MLive.com](#)

Cobo Center in downtown Detroit is in the final stage of a more than \$300 million renovation, which includes a 25,000-square-foot expansion (above) that will be used for the 2012 North American International Auto Show in January.

More Detroit News

Most Comments

Most Recent

Detroit News stories with the most comments in the last 7 days.

- 149** ['All-American Muslim,' business and bigotry: Lowe's pulls advertisements from TLC series \(column\)](#)
- 132** [Democrats optimistic about Obama in 2012](#)
- 108** [Lowe's backlash grows after TV ads pulled from Dearborn-based 'All-American Muslim'](#)
- 101** [Angry Lowe's customers clamor for boycott through social media channels as 'All-American Muslim' controversy grows](#)
- 97** [Lowe's stands by decision to pull ads from 'All-American Muslim' reality show](#)


[View full size](#)

Michael Wayland | MLive.com

Thom Connors, Cobo Center general manager, talks to reporters Tuesday before giving a guided tour of renovations in preparation for the 2012 North American International Auto Show in Detroit

"We're going to be a green building," he said. "I think that's important to a lot of our clients, and to attract clients in the future."

One thing visitors won't get to experience is Cobo Arena, which is part of the final renovation stage. The former concert venue is being turned into a two-level exhibition space and ballroom.

Check back to [MLive.com](#) Wednesday for more photos and details about Cobo Center and the 2012 NAIAS.

Email [Michael Wayland](#): MWayland@mlive.com and follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/MikeWayland](#)

Sponsored Links

AARP® Auto Insurance

Over 50? You Could Save \$357* On AARP® Auto Ins From The Hartford.

[AARP.TheHartford.com](#)

Big Sky Resort Specials

Stay Slopeside and Save at Big Sky Resort

[www.bigskyresort.com](#)

Could This Stock Triple?

The Hottest Alternative Energy Stock on Wall Street right now!

[chicagofinancialtimes.com/SENY](#)

2.6% Mortgage Refinance

Over 300,000 Served - 3.14% APR. Calculate New Payment. No SSN req.

[DeltaPrimeRefinance.com](#)

[Share this story](#)
[Story tools](#)
[Email](#)
[Print](#)

More stories in Detroit News

[Previous story](#)

[St. John Health System to assist Detroit Public Schools during holiday sessions](#)

[Next story](#)

[Report: Detroit light rail project is dead](#)

7 Comments

[Feed](#)

View: [Oldest first](#) | [Newest first](#)


browserfan

December 13, 2011 at 8:44PM

[Follow](#)

Does Cobo need updating? Probably. Do the taxpayers need to get stiffed again with all the featherbedding, the expensive contracts, the bloated expenses, the graft and corruption involved? NO!

[Reply](#)
[Post new](#)

 Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

Independent Joe

December 13, 2011 at 10:12PM

[Follow](#)


Most Active Users

[What's this?](#)

Users with the most **MLive.com** comments in the last 7 days

139

silver rush
139

CitizenXGen
94

landingteam2
88

NotaDNotanR
83

rightorwrong

Connect with MLive.com

[What's this?](#)
[All Facebook & Twitter accounts »](#)

Recommendations

Wisconsin's use of mitten to promote winter tourism a real stretch, Michigan fans say

Laurie Burger and 12,488 others recommend this.



U.S. Rep. Justin Amash gathering support in fight against the National Defense Authorization Act

412 people recommend this.



Secret Santas paying off layaway bills at Kmart store in Grand Rapids inspires others to do the same

384 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin