



Operations

New risers get full use during events in Cobo Center

Recently, sporting events like TEAMS Expo, Extreme Gymnastics, USA Gymnastics, Showdown in Motown and others made good use of the Cobo new risers. So did major events like NAIAS, Autorama and the Dog Show.

Triumph Church held two Easter Services for 10,000 in Cobo Center this year, making full use of risers. Their Dawn Seekers event held quarterly, seats 5,000 people per service.

"The riser investment has already paid for itself by attracting new bookings," said Thom Connors, Cobo Center's GM. This summer, risers will be used for the Junior Olympics.



Events

Major Event bookings are up and former events are coming back to Cobo Center

Cobo Center convention bookings were up 18 percent from 2011-2012. This year, Cobo has nine major conventions, added new business and re-signed former accounts.

The Dearborn-based Society of Manufacturing Engineers hosts a manufacturing event that's expected to bring back about 7,000 members to Cobo in 2014.

"We got an opportunity to see (the planned renovations) and it blew us away," said Debbie Holton, director of events and industry strategy for SME. "We're very positive and optimistic about the facility changes and changes to the management."



Construction

Cobo's renovation project is on time and on budget

As of March 1, the Cobo Center renovation project is 49% completed with an investment of \$139 million. The renovation is currently in its third phase, and remains within budget.

The current phase 3b, involves construction of new 30,000-square-foot Atrium. Adaptive re-use of the former Cobo Arena as a 40,000-square-foot Grand Ballroom is underway, with the creation of new pre-function areas, new central kitchen, food court and additional meeting rooms. Redevelopment of the south side of building along the Detroit River includes new pre-function and meeting areas, and two new junior ballrooms.

Community

Cobo Center is a Project Lighthouse Facility

Cobo Center officials met last month with the Downtown Detroit Partnership and more than 30 businesses in the Central Business District who have networked resources for the Project Lighthouse program to provide extensive neighborhood watch services. This program enhances the safety and security of the downtown Detroit area by working with an established network of all downtown security agencies. Each participating business, known as a Lighthouse, has security personnel available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist those in need.