

DRCFA Creates Strategic Plan for Engaging the Detroit Community Through Art



Since joining the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority (DRCFA) staff in 2012, Maureen Divine, Cobo Center art curator, has been documenting the original art collection and consolidating and redistributing the Cobo art collection. Next step: Strategic planning of future endeavors for Cobo to engage the community with artful enterprise.

In conjunction with the Art Subcommittee of the DRCFA, Maureen is creating a nonprofit entity and applying for grants and foundation sponsorship to fill the blank canvas of the Cobo Center renovation. "The goal is to do more sight specific, large-scale pieces with more meaning and more visual impact," she said. "We plan to offer a professional workshop for local artists who are interested in creating large scale public works that tell stories of the region past and future, and help the artists understand what kind of themes are appropriate for a building like ours."

Detroit area artist Hubert Massey was the first to present the DRCFA with a proposal for fresco and statuary pieces in Cobo Center. His artwork can be seen in many metro Detroit places including the Ambassador Bridge, Michigan State Fairgrounds, Charles H Wright Museum and the Detroit Athletic Club. He studied under the tutelage of Stephen Dimitroff and Lucienne Bloch, who were apprentices to Diego Rivera.

Detroit Ford Fireworks Light Up Cobo Staff Appreciation Party



Cobo Center closed at 3 PM on June 23, and prepared to welcome staff members and their families to enjoy the 2014 Detroit Ford Fireworks in the Grand Riverview Ballroom Pre-Function Space, Terrace and City View Lounge.

More than 400 people attended the festivities with music, games, camaraderie and of course, fireworks over the Detroit River right in front of Cobo Center. Children of Cobo employees enjoyed bean bag toss, ring toss, mini-golf, cards, dominos, hula hoops and many other games throughout the evening. Centerplate provided an Independence Day type picnic dinner with hamburgers, hot dogs and many other traditional American favorites. It was a wonderful evening, and we hope to see everyone again next year!

January
15-23

North American International Auto Show

ATCO GROUP

2014 NORTH AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW
OF THE YEAR

JUNE BUSIEST IN RECENT HISTORY FOR COBO CENTER



Downtown Detroit hoteliers and business have reported the busiest June in recent history. The 10 hotels in downtown Detroit have about 4,800 rooms and are on pace for breaking a record 75 percent occupancy this summer, according to WDIV, Channel 4 in Detroit. The city's event business is coming back, based in large part to Cobo Center's \$279 million renovation

and new management. In three years, the number of conventions in Cobo Center have jumped from six in 2011 to 14 so far this year. Add to that a significant uptick in local, corporate & association meetings and sporting events, and the impact of the Cobo improvements becomes qualitative.

"We are now booking Cobo Center literally year round," said Thom Connors, regional vice president and general manager of Cobo Center/SMG. "The new Grand Riverview Ballroom, three story glass atrium and City View Lounge with the Made-In_Detroit Food Court opening last September provide the best place to hold an event in Detroit over the summer, while accessing all of the world-class festivals and events held in the downtown area that run concurrently."

New June convention business at Cobo this year included the United Auto Workers 36th Constitutional Convention, the Society of Manufacturing Engineer's Big M convention, the Michigan Osteopathic Association Convention, the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Academy of General Dentistry Annual Meetings and Exhibits.

What's In Sight Must Be Right

Kudos to the Cobo Engineering and Production services teams for their diligence in maintaining environmental services and keeping up with the demands of all the room change overs for Cobo Center's busiest June in many years. Great team work!

A special kudos goes to Gary Gentry and his production services team that set up the ballroom for Academy of General Dentistry in one hour and then provided Centerplate with needed back up to get the tables draped in time for the banquet. Nicely done.

Many thanks to Scott Balutowitz, Woodrina Reid and everyone who worked on the Cobo fireworks celebration to make it the best one yet for the new Cobo Center.

A hearty welcome goes out to the newest member of the Cobo Center Finance team, Elizabeth Duty. As an accountant for the team, Elizabeth will handle accounts payable.

