



First Financial Center Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Cincinnati Marriott Downtown

New 700-Room Convention Headquarters Hotel Marks Major Milestone for Cincinnati's Growing Convention District



Photo by: Portman Holdings

CINCINNATI, OH (July 22, 2026) - Construction is officially underway on the Cincinnati Downtown Marriott, a new 700-room convention headquarters hotel that will connect directly to First Financial Center and complete a major piece of Cincinnati's reimagined Convention District.

The 21-story hotel is being developed by Portman and is planned to include 700 guest rooms, approximately 60,000 square feet of meeting space, a 17,000-square-foot outdoor events terrace, multiple ballrooms and breakout spaces, ground-floor retail, and a direct skybridge connection to First Financial Center.

The project follows the \$264 million transformation of First Financial Center, which reopened in January 2026. Together, the convention center, headquarters hotel, Elm Street Plaza and surrounding downtown amenities are designed to create a more connected experience for meeting planners, exhibitors and attendees.



Photo by: First Financial Center

The connected headquarters hotel is expected to strengthen Cincinnati's ability to compete for larger national conventions, citywide events and meetings by adding significant room inventory and event space immediately adjacent to the convention center. The project also addresses a long-standing need for a large hotel directly connected to the venue.

Under the current project timeline, the Cincinnati Downtown Marriott is scheduled to open in late 2028. Once complete, the hotel will provide attendees with direct indoor access to First Financial Center while placing them within walking distance of downtown restaurants, arts and cultural attractions, entertainment venues and public gathering spaces.

The groundbreaking represents the next major investment in Cincinnati's convention package and continues the transformation of the southwest portion of downtown into a more cohesive meetings, tourism and hospitality district.

About First Financial Center

Located in the heart of downtown Cincinnati, First Financial Center recently underwent a \$264 million transformation to become the Midwest's premier meetings and events destination. Reopening in January 2026, the 750,000-square-foot facility features 200,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space, two ballrooms, 28 state-of-the-art meeting rooms, and a new rooftop terrace. Adjacent to the new Elm Street Plaza, the center is designed for seamless accessibility, energy efficiency, and world-class event experiences. A new 700-room Marriott convention headquarters hotel broke ground in July 2026 and is slated to open in Fall 2028, connecting directly to the Center via skybridge.

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