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# ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS & FACILITIES

THE SOURCE FOR ASSOCIATION MEETING PLANNING MANAGEMENT



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waterwater which will be ideal for group receptions and networking events,” Pouey says.

Meeting planners and attendees will now be able to enjoy all the amenities of a 4-star upscale Omni resort while having the convenience of being steps away from their general session and expo hall.

“The additional indoor and outdoor meeting space, the lavish entertainment areas and fresh dining options will generate great excitement and ultimately boost attendee engagement and attendance,” Pouey says. “Set to be completed in late 2025, technology will be a big focus as we will have multiple electronic display boards through the building creating branding opportunities. The convention center is adjacent to the Everglades Cruise Port, which is ideal for tagging on a few days of R&R pre or post the convention.”

## Cincinnati

Visit Cincy President & CEO, Julie Calvert, likes to use the word “reimagining” when speaking of the Duke Energy Convention Center’s newest upgrades. “We are reimagining the entire area around the center and creating a Convention District. The Duke Energy Convention Center (DECC) is 55 years old, and the last time it was renovated was in 2006,” Calvert says. They envision a modern, state-of-the-art facility that not only meets but exceeds the evolving needs of the convention industry. With a focus on innovation and versatility, their goal is to create an environment that fosters creativity, connectivity and collaboration, setting a new standard for convention centers nationwide.

This includes overhauling the building’s exterior façade while opening up the interior space of the center by removing obstructions and blank walls from the exterior and bringing in natural light to the space.

The “reimaging” also involves extending exhibit hall space, adding roughly 12,000 sf of contiguous space to the convention hall’s east side, connecting the hall with the new outdoor plaza.

“This creates opportunities for various functions and pre-function activities and adds to the overall offering and flexibility of the center,” Calvert says. “The proposed design of the eastern section of the building provides an opportunity for a seamless expansion of the exhibit hall in the future. This was never about an expansion, rather, a major operational, aesthetic and functional reinvention for the meeting planner and attendee. This is beyond new paint and carpet, which is why we have refused to call this a renovation of the Duke Energy Center. It’s a reinvention — a rebirth.”

These enhancements will profoundly enhance the experience of convention center attendees in several ways.

“Firstly, we’re investing in cutting-edge technology and infrastructure to ensure seamless connectivity and support for the latest digital innovations, facilitating interactive presentations, live streaming and virtual participation,” Calvert says. Secondly, the redesigned spaces will offer unparalleled



The Broward County Convention Center, which is undergoing a \$1.3 billion expansion to be completed next year, will offer a Pedestrian Plaza with restaurants and waterfront views.

flexibility, allowing for dynamic configurations tailored to the unique needs of each event. This adaptability ensures a personalized and impactful experience for attendees and provides event planners with endless possibilities to create memorable and engaging programs.

“Moreover, our commitment to sustainability and accessibility underscores our dedication to inclusivity and responsible stewardship of resources, making the DECC an attractive choice for environmentally conscious organizations and planners seeking venues that align with their values,” Calvert says. “Beyond the physical enhancements, meeting and event planners should know that our team at Visit Cincy is deeply committed to their success. With our passion for hospitality and dedication to excellence, we invited meeting and event planners to the limitless possibilities awaiting them at the DECC.”

## Dallas

The current convention center in Dallas, TX is a compilation of decades of construction and renovations, so it lacks continuity, flexibility and space for many types of groups, specifically those who need large ballrooms and breakout space. As well, meeting planners, attendees and other

customers report that Dallas needs to offer more connected hotel rooms, and dining and entertainment options, within walking distance to the center.

Therefore, the initial vision for the new and expanded Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas (KBHCCD)

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**Julie Calvert**  
President & CEO  
Visit Cincy

