



A project that will transform Cincinnati's Duke Energy Convention Center recently kicked off with government and industry officials in tow. Left to right: Meeka Owens, Cincinnati City Council member; Julie Calvert, President & CEO, Visit Cincy; Sheryl Long, Cincinnati City Manager; Ohio State Sen. Louis Blessing III; Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner; Jeff Berding, Visit Cincy Board Vice Chairperson; Ohio State Sen. Catherine Ingram; Lydia Mihalik, Director, Ohio Department of Development; Stephanie Summerow Dumas, Hamilton County Commissioner; and Katie Westbrook, 3CDC Vice President of Development. See story

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ASAE Annual's Main Stage to
Feature Poems, Politics and Music

Judge Declines Monitor for
NRA, LaPierre Gets 10-Year Ban

MPI Foundation Seeks to Raise
\$40K in Three Days

AHLA Foundation Distributes \$1M in Grants at Anti- Trafficking Summit

By Jordan Bradley

The giving arm of the American Hotel and Lodging Association, the AHLA Foundation, held its third annual No Room for Trafficking (NRFT) Summit

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NEWS

Cincinnati Kicks Off Construction of Reimagined Convention Center District

By Jonathan Trager

A \$240 million transformation of the Duke Energy Convention Center (DECC) in Cincinnati has gotten underway, as government and industry leaders heralded the project.

The new state-of-the-art facility will feature a dramatic new façade, and the exhibition hall will flow into the new Elm Street Plaza, an outdoor plaza connected to a programmable park space.

The project is expected to be completed by December 2025, with bookings already underway for 2026 and beyond.

In addition to the new DECC and Elm Street Plaza, the reimagined downtown Cincinnati Convention District project will also include the subsequent construction of a planned 800-room convention headquarters as another piece of the district's overall revitalization plan.

"A healthy convention district and more convention business

means local businesses, restaurants, venues, event services, and attractions will grow," said Julie Calvert, President & CEO of Visit Cincy. "It means that 'convention season' can last year-round. It means we can better compete for, and win business against our peer cities, in the Midwest and across the country."

The DECC transformation is part of a broader initiative to revitalize the downtown area, which will also include new restaurants and entertainment venues.

"This building is just one part of the robust vision and strategy to build out our downtown, to activate every corner of this center city," said Cincinnati City Manager Sheryl Long. "Not only to attract more national and international events, but to invite new residents and corporate partners to spend time downtown."