2020 ANNUAL REPORT
Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau

“The mission of the GLCVB is to promote the region as a visitor destination to impact the area’s economy.”

800.648.6630 | lansing.org | #lovelansing

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on the hospitality and tourism industry. The travel sector nationally lost $492 billion compared to 2019 which was an unprecedented 42% decline. Michigan lost 199,000 leisure and hospitality jobs. Lansing’s visitor economy also suffered devastating and unprecedented loss. Due to the inability to host meetings and sporting events for most of 2020, the GLCVB/GLSA lost 207 meetings and 75 sporting events although the losses booked directly by our partners throughout the region increase those numbers drastically. The lack of visitors to the region and resulting decline in hotel occupancy had a significant impact on the GLCVB’s budget. The Greater Lansing CVB was forced to layoff 17 staff members and closed the East Lansing Visitor Center permanently.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY

40.3%
Down 34.4% from 2019.

ROOMS CONSUMED

733,999
Down 30.76% for year but down 37% from April–December.

WEB HITS

296,438
Down 53% from 2019.

The impact on the hospitality industry started 2020 very strong. The region hosted numerous events in the first quarter including the Heartland Travel Showcase. The GLCVB welcomed 53 new members and celebrated Lance Margrif as the CIA of the Year. The Greater Lansing Sports Authority was the 1st host city with NCAA basketball events—the most of any city in Michigan. The Be a Tourist In Your Own Town event was named Top of the Town Best Local Festival by City Pulse. The Bureau’s social media channels saw tremendous growth. The Bureau’s members and partners got creative with their promotional efforts and did everything from offering virtual tours, to promoting window shopping on Facebook Live and local restaurants installed igloos for outdoor dining. And all the while over 100 members took the Greater Lansing Safe Pledge, ensuring the health and wellness of our visitors.

THE BRIGHT SPOTS

The hospitality industry started 2020 very strong. The region hosted numerous events in the first quarter including the Heartland Travel Showcase. The GLCVB welcomed 53 new members and celebrated Lance Margrif as the CIA of the Year. The Greater Lansing Sports Authority was the 1st host city with NCAA basketball events—the most of any city in Michigan. The Be a Tourist In Your Own Town event was named Top of the Town Best Local Festival by City Pulse. The Bureau’s social media channels saw tremendous growth. The Bureau’s members and partners got creative with their promotional efforts and did everything from offering virtual tours, to promoting window shopping on Facebook Live and local restaurants installed igloos for outdoor dining. And all the while over 100 members took the Greater Lansing Safe Pledge, ensuring the health and wellness of our visitors.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

In 2021, the region welcomed two new hotels in early 2021 and numerous new restaurants have opened. Due to pent up demand, we anticipate sports events and meetings will rebound once it is safe to gather again. The GLCVB remains optimistic about the future possibilities for our region!