

NEWS

Facilities Magazine,
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July 11, 2011

The Vicksburg Convention Center – Vicksburg, MS Receives *Facilities & Destinations* 2011 Award of Excellence

Facilities & Destinations Magazine announces its prestigious *Facilities & Destinations 2011 Awards of Excellence: Prime Site Winners*. One of the recipients of this year's award is the Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg, MS. The annual Meeting Industry event, conducted by the *Facilities Media Group* and voted on by planners of meetings, conventions, trade shows and other events, is a recognition of achievement of a destination and/or facility and its personnel through a program that dates back to 1988.

"We take Site Selection very seriously", said Michael Caffin, Associate Publisher, the *Facilities Media Group*, publishers of *Facilities & Destinations*. "It is the most important decision when it comes to meeting planning because so much success is dependent on the right setting. Our publications are committed to helping planners make effective destination decisions".

"This honor bestowed on our facility and especially our team of meeting professionals is the product of hard work," said Larry Gawronski, Vice-President for VenuWorks/Vicksburg Convention Center & Auditorium. "We are grateful to receive the recognition by planners who have a voice in where they have their meetings. It means we are being recognized by the decision-makers who benefit from our professional attention to detail and state-of-the-art amenities," said Gawronski. "It's a jewel in the crown that the City of Vicksburg can wear proudly," he commented.

Throughout the year, Meeting Planners fill out and send in ballots, available in *Facilities Media Group* publications as well as online. "Readers are very excited to have their voice heard, and we received a record number of ballots in 2011," said Caffin.

The *Facilities & Destinations: Prime Site Awards* is given out in three categories: Convention Centers, Conference Centers and Hotels & Resorts.

Six venues, managed by VenuWorks received Prime Site Awards: Alerus (ND) Center, Aransas Pass (TX) Civic Center, Hurst (TX) Conference Center, River (IA) Center, Three Rivers (WA) Convention Center and Vicksburg (MS) Convention Center.

Winners will be featured in the upcoming edition of the *2011 Facilities & Destinations SuperBook*, which will be arriving by mail shortly.

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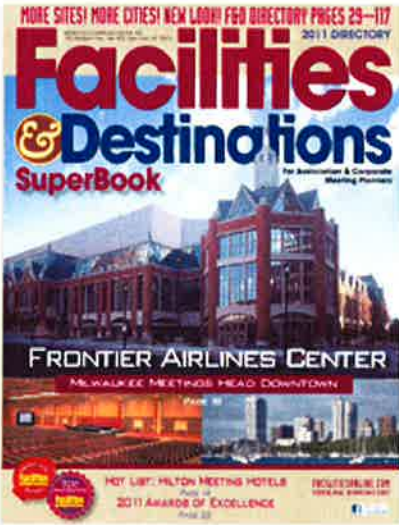
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 9:04 AM

To: lgawronski@venuworks.com

Subject: Special Report: Best of the Best

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The **Facilities & Destinations** Report



BEST OF THE BEST 2011 AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

With the official announcement of the *Facilities & Destinations 2011 Awards of Excellence Winners* this summer, Site selection became a little bit easier because now, Meeting Planners can know the "Best of the Best" in today's destination marketplace. Winners are announced in the 2011 Facilities & Destinations SuperBook. [For the full story click here.](#)



Awards of Excellence Prime Site

For the 2011 "Best of the Best" Convention Centers, voted by Planners of Meetings, Conventions, Trade Shows & Other Events [CLICK HERE](#)

Awards of Excellence Top Destination

For the 2011 Best of the Best Convention & Visitor Bureaus, voted by Planners of Meetings, Conventions, and Trade Shows & Other Events [CLICK HERE](#)



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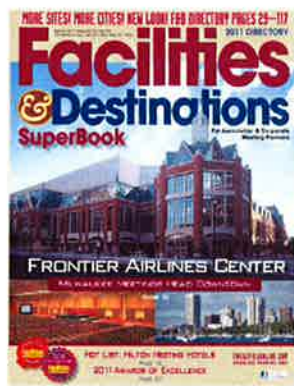


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Hot News

Facilities Media Group Announces 2011 Awards of Excellence Winners
Meeting Industry News



With the official announcement of the **Facilities & Destinations 2011 Awards of Excellence Winners** this summer, Site selection became a little bit easier because now, Meeting Planners can know the "Best of the Best" in today's destination marketplace. This annual Meeting Industry event, conducted by the **Facilities Media Group** and voted on by Planners of meetings, conventions, trade shows and other events, is a recognition of achievement of a destination and/or facility and its personnel through a program that

dates back to 1988.

"We take Site Selection very seriously," said Michael Caffin, Associate Publisher, the **Facilities Media Group**, publishers of **Facilities & Destinations**. "It is the most important decision when it comes to meeting planning because so much of event success is dependent on the right setting. Our publications are committed to helping planners make effective destination decisions."



If a venue cannot excel in accommodating an event or if a destination fails to excite attendees or if the personnel at a city or facility do not enhance a meeting planner's efforts, an event will not succeed and often fall far short of its Return on Investment. During the selection process, planners assess several factors before deciding on a site – and even to narrow down the options when deciding where to conduct a site visit. For nearly a quarter of a century, Planners have looked to the **Facilities Media Group's** award program as a consensus by the profession on which destinations and facilities fall into the realm of achieving Excellence.

Winners are selected by meeting and event planners and other readers of the **Facilities Media Group** family of Meeting Publications, which include **Facilities & Destinations SuperBook**, **Facilities & Destinations Planner Guide**, **Facilities & Destinations CONFERENCE**, and the **Facilities & Destinations**

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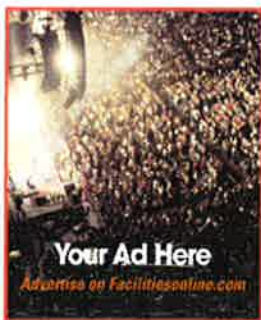


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Mid-Market Review (which had its debut in 2010), and online at Facilitiesonline.com.

Throughout the year, Meeting Planners fill out and send in ballots, available in all Facilities Media Group publications as well as online. "Readers are very excited to have their voice heard, and we received a record number of ballots in 2011," said Caffin.

The **Awards of Excellence** has been an annual industry event since 1988, presented by the **Facilities Media Group**. "In the meetings industry, no voice matters

more than those of the planners of meetings, conventions and trade shows," said Caffin. "Event Success is the very basis of our industry and intrinsic to that success is the interface between the planner and destination personnel."

There are two distinct **Awards of Excellence: Prime Site and Top Destination**. The **Prime Site Award** is given out in three categories: Convention Centers, Conference Centers, and Hotels & Resorts. The **Top Destination Award** is the award given to Convention & Visitor Bureaus or similar entities that sell a city and/or region as a setting for a meeting. The **Facilities & Destinations SuperBook** premieres to the industry the list of **Prime Site Award**-winning Convention Centers and **Top Destination Award**-winning CVBs (Prime Site Awards for other venues, including Conference Centers, Meeting Hotels and arenas, will be announced in a few weeks).



"This SuperBook was one of our biggest issues ever, which is very gratifying considering the lean economic times that have hit the nation, our industry and publishing," said Caffin. "But there are many signs of the business climate improving, and the awards have been generating increasing interest."

In addition to the list of **Prime Site** ([2011 List Click Here](#)) and **Top Destination Award Winners** ([2011 List Click Here](#)) – all of whom receive a Official Certificates are featured in their special section on **Facilitiesonline** ([Click Here](#)).

Winners of course are featured in the **2011 Facilities & Destinations SuperBook**, which has already been mailed. For a free digitized edition of this publication, [click here](#).

The **2011 Facilities & Destinations SuperBook** also includes: Milwaukee Meetings: A Destination Goes Downtown that examines the meetings district and infrastructure this city has created around the state-of-the-art Frontier Airlines Convention Center, an in-depth Spotlight Interview with Dr. DeWayne S. Woodring, Executive Director & CEO, Religious Conference Management Association



and Sites & Cities Directory, and a special Buyer's Guide: Products & Services Directory.

"We're always changing the promotion of the awards, or how we present them in the magazine," said Caffin. "The fact is, the awards gain more momentum each year. The Meeting Industry is one of the most vibrant in the U.S., and even a sluggish economy can't diminish that vibrancy. Planners as well as Venues and Destinations, all want the same thing – Event Success. Seeing who has won a Prime Site or Top Destination award brings an additional factor into the decision making process involved in site selection. The end result should be that your event effectively achieves its objectives."

The 2011 Prime Site Convention Center and Top Destination Award Winners:



Northeast/Top Destination Award Winners: Atlantic City CVA, Greater Boston CVB, Greater Hartford CVB, Philadelphia CVB, Visit



Pittsburgh, Providence Warwick CVB

Northeast/Prime Site Award Winners:

Atlantic City Convention Center, Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Connecticut Convention Center, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, Meadowlands Exposition Center, OnCenter Complex, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Rhode Island Convention Center, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Valley Forge Convention Center

Mid-Atlantic/Prime Site Award Winners: Baltimore Convention Center, Charleston Civic Center, Hampton Roads Convention Center, Richmond Convention Center, Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Virginia Beach Convention Center, Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Mid-Atlantic/Top Destination Award Winners: Norfolk CVB, Ocean City CVB, Richmond CVB, Virginia Beach CVB, Greater Wilmington CVB

Southeast/Prime Site Award Winners: Baton Rouge River Center Convention Center, Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, Carolina First Center, Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Jackson Convention Complex, Knoxville Convention Center, Memphis Cook Convention Center, Miami Beach Convention Center, Mobile Convention Center, Morial Convention Center, Nashville Convention Center, Orange County Convention Center, Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center, Savannah International Trade & Convention Center, Shreveport Convention Center, Vicksburg Convention Center

Southeast/Top Destination Award Winners: Baton Rouge CVB, Greater Birmingham CVB, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, Daytona Beach Area CVB, Greater Ft. Lauderdale

CVB, Knoxville CVB, Lexington CVB, Louisville and Jefferson County CVB, Memphis CVB, Greater Miami CVB, Mississippi Gulf Coast CVB, Nashville CVB, New Orleans CVB, Palm Beach County CVB, Savannah CVB

Midwest/Prime Site Award Winners: Alerus Center, Alliant Energy Center, Branson Convention Center, Greater Columbus Convention Center, DeVos Place, Duke Energy Convention Center, Frontier Airlines Center, Indiana Convention Center, Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas Expocentre, Minneapolis Convention Center, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Overland Park Convention Center, RiverCenter, SeaGate Convention Centre

Midwest/Top Destination Award Winners: Akron/Summit CVB, Chicago CTB, Positively Cleveland, Kansas City CVB, Greater Lansing CVB, Visit Milwaukee, Meet Minneapolis, Greater Omaha CVB, Rapid City CVB, Saint Louis CVC, Saint Paul CVB

West/Prime Site Award Winners: Albuquerque Convention Center, Anaheim Convention Center, Aransas Pass Civic Center, Austin Convention Center, Colorado Convention Center, Cox Convention Center, Dallas Convention Center, Fairplex, Fort Worth Convention Center, Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center, George R. Brown Convention Center, Hawaii Convention Center, Hurst Conference Center, Las Vegas Convention Center, Los Angeles Convention Center, Moscone Center, Oregon Convention Center, Palm Springs Convention Center, Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center, Reliant Center, Sacramento Convention Center, Salt Palace Convention Center, San Diego Convention Center, Three Rivers Convention Center, Tulsa Convention Center, Washington State Convention & Trade Center

West/Top Destination Award Winners: Austin CVB, Visit Denver, Experience Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak CVB, Fort Worth CVB, Greater Houston CVB, Las Cruces CVB, Las Vegas CVA, Los Angeles CVB, Newport Beach CVB, Oakland CVB, Oklahoma City CVB, Pasadena CVB, Greater Phoenix CVB, Reno Sparks CVA, San Antonio CVB, Seattle-King County CVB, Tucson CVB, Tulsa CVB

Canada/Prime Site Award Winners: Direct Energy Centre, Palais des congrès de Montreal, TELUS Convention Center, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Center

Canada/Top Destination Award Winners: Tourisme Montreal

Puerto Rico/Prime Site Award Winners: Puerto Rico Convention Center

Puerto Rico/Top Destination Award Winners: Puerto Rico Convention Bureau



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