



Samantha Le <samantha@venuestoday.com>

VT Pulse, November 29, 2017: Sea-Container Venues on Horizon

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Venues Today <linda@venuestoday.com>
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 To: samantha@venuestoday.com

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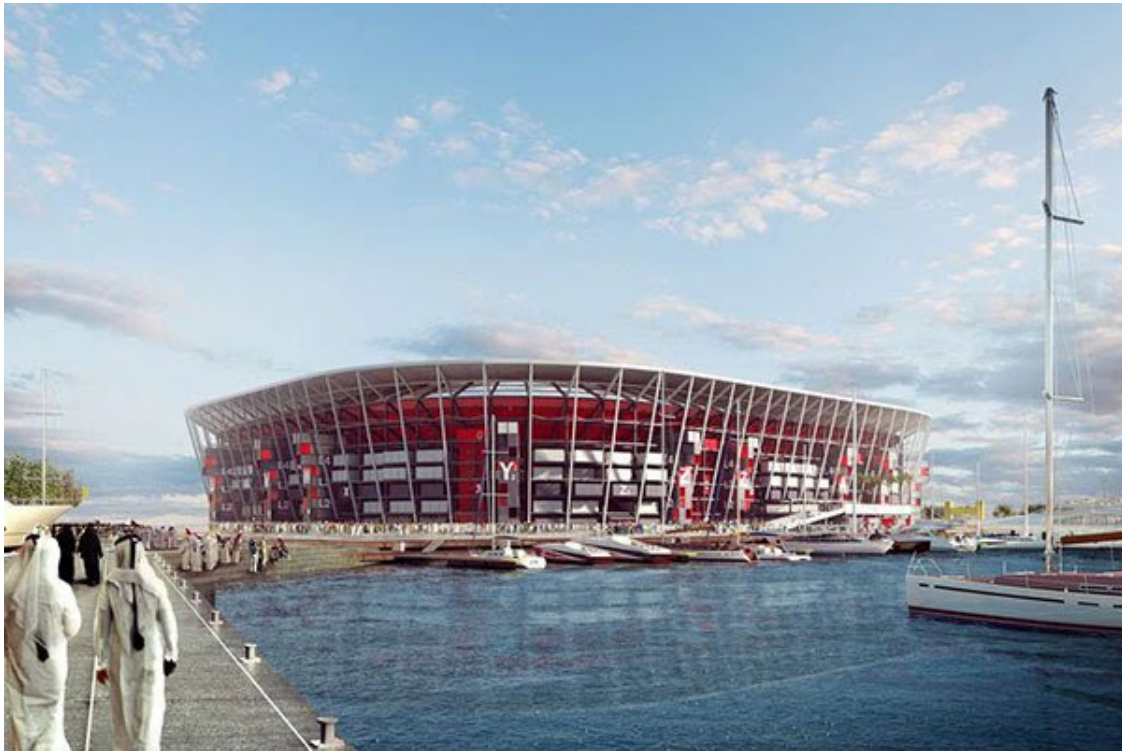


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Greetings Samantha,

If you look closely at the rendering below, you may see sea containers in the construction of the world's first (not yet built) reusable stadium. Sea containers are also a possible element for fairgrounds construction. What started as the basis for tiny houses seems to be coming into its own. Repurposing is a good thing. We hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving and managed to repurpose that turkey.



A rendering made available by Qatar World Cup's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, responsible for organizing World Cup 2020, shows the 40,000-seat Ras Abu Aboud Stadium.

Qatar To Put Up First Reusable Stadium

By Brad Weissberg

The World Cup 2020 venue Ras Abu Aboud, Dubai, will be the first-ever facility that can be torn down and reassembled at another location. The 40,000-seat facility will be composed entirely of modified shipping containers. Despite international controversy, World Cup organizers are steadfast in their decision to allow Dubai to host the event.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It’s very important to the overall development of the capital city, particularly the downtown area. We believe as the downtown area goes so goes the city, and as the city of Hartford goes, so goes the region in terms of its economic growth and its ability to attract and retain private sector employment and investment. So it’s an absolutely vital asset.”

— Oz Griebel, president and CEO of the MetroHartford Alliance, about the proposed sale of XL Center, Hartford, Conn.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Who would be the first person *Venues Today* sees at the International Association of Fairs & Expositions convention in Las Vegas? Barbara Hubbard, of course. The founder of ACTS, VT Woman of Influence, and International Association of Entertainment Buyers lifetime achievement award winner, was here for a drive-by, flanked by mentee Sabrina Garza, left, and Ken Salazar, right, of the New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque. Hubbard had to hurry home to Las Cruces to promote a Dec. 5 Mannheim Steamroller concert at Pan Am Center as only a promoter like Hubbard can. She was even slated to speak at a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Anything to move a ticket. (VT Photo)



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Hartford's XL Center Up for Sale

By Tom Gresham

The Connecticut General Assembly recently approved \$40 million for improvements to the XL Center, Hartford, that included a provision that the arena's managers should seek new owners by June 2019.

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IAFE Members Explore The Benefits Of Change

By Linda Deckard

Using sea containers for expansion, fairground improvements, the IAFE convention leaving Las Vegas next year, and, of course, fair food, were among hot topics of conversation at this year's IAFE Convention, held at Paris Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas.

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Austin's Parish To Be Sold By Auction

By Chad Swiatecki

The Parish nightclub, a historic well-known venue in Austin, Texas' Sixth Street Entertainment District, is being put up for sale to literally the highest bidder. The facility will be up for auction on eBay from Dec. 1-10.

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Q&A With Thomas Ovesen, VP, Dubai Arena

By Brad Weissberg

Danish-born Thomas Ovesen, a Middle East venue executive for the last 17 years, has accepted the VP, programming, position at Dubai Arena, making Ovesen the first member of Dubai Arena's GM Guy Ngata's executive team. The venue is slated to open in 2019.

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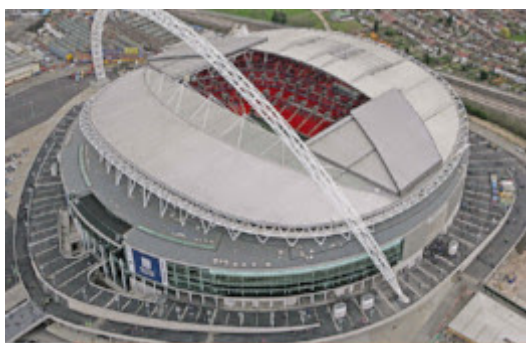


May Pledges To Cover Costs Of Arena Attack

By Gideon Gottfried

U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to cover all costs, which could be up to £28 million (about \$37 million), for the renovation of Manchester Arena following the May 22 bomb attack on the venue during an Ariana Grande concert.

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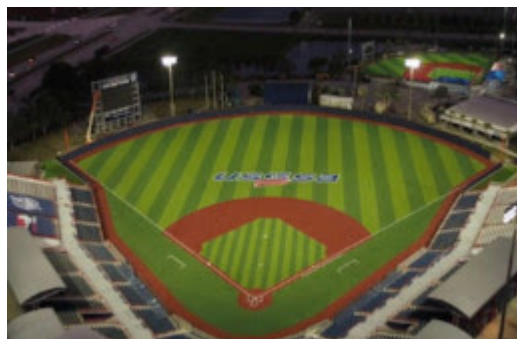


First UK Venue To Go Contactless

By Kendra Andrews

Wembley Stadium, London, is about to become the first U.K.'s first sports and entertainment venue to offer contactless ticketing to fans. This partnership will allow fans to add their tickets to Apple Wallet on iPhones or Apple Watches.

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TicketForce Wins USSSA Contract

By Brad Weissberg

USSSA Space Coast Complex has entered into a three-year deal with TicketForce for the multi-venue complex's ticketing. TicketForce's strong system for walkups was cited as one of the reasons the firm was selected.

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Guns N' Roses On a Roll

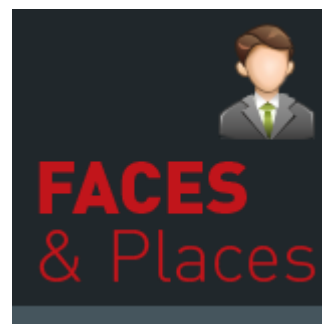
Guns N' Roses rocked a full-capacity crowd at T-Mobile Arena, Las Vegas, Nov. 17, and grossed over \$2.1 million, topping our chart this week. The rock music icons played for an exhausting three and a half hours.

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XLIVE; Western Fairs; INTIX On Deck

XLIVE Annual Conference, Mandalay Bay Hotel, Dec. 10-13; Western Fairs Association Convention, Anaheim (Calif.) Marriott, Jan. 3-6; INTIX, Baltimore Hilton, Jan. 23-25.



Feichter New Events Manager at MCCNO

Brad Feichter has been named event manager at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (MCCNO), the sixth largest convention center in the nation.

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SHORT TAKES

Centerplate and S.F. Giants Sever Contract

After a partnership spanning nearly 25 years, Centerplate and the San Francisco Giants have announced the decision to part ways at the end of the season, effective Dec. 31. The company and team had been in talks for a renewal pending the end of the current contract but were unable to come to terms on a new arrangement. Centerplate has served the San Francisco Giants since 1993, opening the food and beverage operation at AT&T Park. Largely credited as starting the renaissance of sports venue cuisine, AT&T Park's incorporation of craft beer, California wines, and local brands won it the reputation as a food-lover's paradise—sitting atop the League's "best foods" lists for delicious and creative offerings ranging from garlic fries and crab sandwiches to Ghirardelli sundaes and vegan specialties.

New NLL Franchise To Be Named Philadelphia Wings

Comcast Spectacor announced the name of its new National Lacrosse League (NLL) franchise in grand fashion using a skydiver, high atop the Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, who unfurled a banner revealing the team's name—the Philadelphia Wings—after descending from an airplane. The Wings will make their debut in the 2018-19 season. The name was selected through an online poll and generated more than 7,000 entries.

Study Shows HKECIA Adds \$6.8 Billion To Local Economy

Hong Kong Exhibition & Convention Industry Association (HKECIA) released findings from the latest biennial Economic Impact Study gauging the contribution of Hong Kong's exhibition industry to the city's economy today. The study, covering the calendar year 2016, reveals that the exhibition industry contributed HK\$52.9 billion (US\$6.8 billion) to the local economy in 2016 in expenditure effects, equivalent to 2.1 percent of Hong Kong's total GDP for the period.

Seton Hall Players Tour 911 Memorial

Seton Hall, South Orange, N.J., men's basketball team, one of four NCAA programs participating in the second annual Never Forget Tribute Classic at Prudential Center, Newark, N.J., Dec. 9, visited the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York on Nov. 27. The players and coaches heard from Rhianna Quinn Roddy, executive director of the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, and Bill Spade, a Seton Hall graduate ('81) and FDNY first-responder whose son attends Seton Hall via the Fund, and received a guided tour of the memorial and museum.

INTRUST Bank Arena Revives 12 Days of Christmas Traditon

SMG-managed INTRUST Bank Arena, Wichita, Kan., will partner with KWCH 12 and B98, on its annual 12 Days of Entertainment promotion this December. The promotion was a widely popular annual tradition from 2011 through 2015 and took a one-year hiatus in 2016. This year, the promotion returns and will run for 12 days from Dec. 1-12, concluding with a grand prize of two tickets to 12 events of the winner's choice in 2018.

Bon Secours Wellness Arena Now Offers Sensory Safety Kits

Bon Secours Wellness Arena, Greenville, S.C., now offers Friendly Access Sensory Safety Kits to guests at all events. The kits are designed to support individuals of all ages with a variety of sensory needs. Loud noises and bright lights can often make it difficult or confusing for an individual with autism, dementia, a traumatic brain injury or other sensory disabilities to enjoy an event.

International Venue Resource Guide

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Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, Linda Deckard | 714-378-5400, ext. 22 | linda@venuestoday.com
Resource Guides Manager, Rob Ocampo | 714-378-5400, ext. 27 | rob@venuestoday.com
Hot Tickets | Monique Potter | 714-378-5400, ext. 31 | hottickets@venuestoday.com
Senior Writer, Brad Weissberg | 714-378-5400, ext. 28 | brad@venuestoday.com
Circulation Coordinator | Rob Ocampo | 714-378-5400, ext. 27 | subscribe@venuestoday.com

President, Conferences & Publications | Ray Waddell | 615-669-9901 | rwaddell@oakviewgroup.com

For advertising information, contact:

Western U.S., Northeast, Intl. | Rich DiGiacomo | 310-429-3678 | rich@venuestoday.com
Texas, Eastern U.S. | Jim McNeil | 207-699-3343 | jim@venuestoday.com
Marketing Director | Samantha Le | 714-378-5400, ext. 23 | samantha@venuestoday.com

To update a Listing for the VT Resource Guide, contact:

Rob Ocampo | rob@venuestoday.com

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