

For Immediate Release

EcoWorks Designates Cobo Center a Sustainable Communities Champion

DETROIT Oct 7, 2014 - Thom Connors, SMG regional vice president and general manager of Cobo Center, is pleased to announce that Cobo Center is the proud recipient of the EcoWorks Sustainable Communities Champion award.

During the annual EcoWorks breakfast Sept 19, Cobo Center, along with three other agencies leading the Detroit area in sustainability practices, was designated a champion for aligning with the EcoWorks mission of large scale innovative education, training, consulting, social business and advocacy in the sustainable use of energy natural resources.

At the event, a spokesman for EcoWorks explained, "Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority (DRCFA) has helped to set an example for what we can accomplish when we unite as a region. The renovation of Cobo Center helps secure its position as a symbol of Detroit, but that alone wouldn't garner an award. In addition to the regional cooperation and the great greening work that they did, they have shared the story with clients, conference attendees and our region. The Cobo Center hosts 'temporary communities' if you will, leaders from many fields come to the center for a brief time of learning. And now each of those communities experiences what green renovation can do." The Cobo Center Green Committee was formed in 2011 to develop green event support and achieve green certifications for the center. Cobo became the largest Green Venues Michigan facility in 2012.



The new Cobo Center Green Roof



Right to left: Thom Connors, SMG Regional Vice President and GM; Mary Klida, marketing and communications manager and Green Committee Co-Chair Cobo Center; Cedric Turnabore, senior manager production services and Green Committee chair Cobo Center, Claude Molinari, AGM Cobo Center.



The entire Cobo Center Green Committee



Now in the final phase of a \$279 million renovation, building features like a living green roof, Kone EcoMod energy saving escalators and elevators, dock enclosures, induction lighting that uses 40% energy in all exhibit halls, and new energy saving HVAC units are already in place.

“We are very proud of this recognition from EcoWorks and the Detroit area sustainability network. However, Cobo Center is not content to rest on what has been accomplished. Our Green Committee is moving very quickly to rapidly increase our waste diversion rate, implement a kitchen waste composting program and apply for other green certifications that will establish Cobo as an industry leader,” said Connors.

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About SMG

Founded in 1977, SMG provides management services to more than 230 public assembly facilities including convention and exhibition centers, arenas, stadiums, theatres, performing arts centers, equestrian facilities, science centers and a variety of other venues. With facilities across the globe, SMG manages more than 15 million square feet of exhibition space and more than 1.5 million sports and entertainment seats. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides venue management, sales, marketing, event booking and programming, construction and design consulting, and pre-opening services for such landmark facilities as McCormick Place & Soldier Field in Chicago, Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, Houston’s NRG Park and the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through its concessions and catering company SAVOR, currently serving more than 130 accounts worldwide.

About Cobo Center

With 723,000 square feet of exhibit space, Cobo Center boasts one of the largest contiguous exhibit floor spaces in North America and is the 19th largest convention center in the country. Visit online at www.cobocenter.com. View the Cobo Green Initiatives at: http://www.cobocenter.com/green_initiatives_1.

About the DRCFA

On 9/15/09, operational control of Cobo Center transferred to the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority, under a collaborative agreement by the Michigan State Legislature, the City of Detroit, and Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Each of these entities has an appointed member on the DRCFA Board. Larry Alexander is Chairman the Board as the member appointed by the Governor of the State of Michigan. For more information visit: <http://www.drcfa.org/>