



On behalf of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), our Chairman, our Board and our staff, I welcome you to our world-class facilities. It is our pleasure to serve you. Everything we do at the MPEA is meant to fulfill our mission statement: “to be the world’s premier host, creating a great experience for every person, every time”.

The MPEA is proud to own and operate **McCormick Place®**, North America’s premier convention center; historic **Navy Pier®**, the Midwest’s top tourist and leisure destination, and the **Hyatt Regency® McCormick Place Hotel**, a Triple-A 4-Diamond-rated hotel located on our convention campus. These facilities serve as an important economic engine for the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, generating more than \$8 billion annually for our economy and support more than 65,000 jobs.

McCormick Place remains one of the world’s top destinations for conventions and trade shows... and for good reason. It’s the place where business gets done... and in a big way! McCormick Place hosts more than 100 events a year. Tradeshows held at McCormick Place often break records for attendance, exhibitors and/or exhibit space. And, as show organizers, exhibitors and attendees can attest, our services and amenities are second to none. Everything we do is geared towards providing exceptional customer service. Many of the largest and most prestigious tradeshows in the country, including the *International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS)*, *The National Restaurant Association’s Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show (NRA)*, *International Home & Housewares Show*, *Graph Expo*, *Pack Expo International* and the *Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)* regularly hold their conventions at McCormick Place.

In an effort to exceed the ever-growing needs and expectations of our customers, we recently expanded our convention campus to include the state-of-the-art McCormick Place West Building – which opened on budget and eight months ahead of schedule. The newest gem in our convention crown is one of the most flexible and functional convention facilities in the country. It has won many architectural and engineering awards. The building offers an additional 470,000 square feet of exhibition space and an additional 250,000 square feet of meeting space, including one of the world’s largest and most elegant ballrooms. McCormick West has quickly gained the reputation of being the “world’s medical meetings headquarters” because of the large number of small-to-mid-sized health care shows that continually book this building for their conferences.

Historic Navy Pier is the region’s crown jewel of tourism. It remains the most popular tourist and leisure destination in the Midwest, a “must see” attraction for more than eight million visitors each year. Beloved seasonal events include the *Bank of America® Winter WonderFest®*, twice weekly summertime fireworks shows and *Cirque Shanghai*, the popular acrobatic troupe from China, which performs each summer at our *Pepsi® Skyline Stage*.

Navy Pier also offers plenty of entertainment, educational and cultural opportunities. For example, *Navy Pier Park* features rides and attractions, including the Navy Pier Ferris wheel, an iconic symbol of Chicago, which has welcomed more than 10 million riders. The new *Navy Pier AeroBalloon*, located in Gateway Park, has proven to be a real crowd-pleaser as it lifts passengers 350 feet above the lakefront. The *Chicago Shakespeare Theater* at Navy Pier,

winner of the prestigious Tony Award for Best Regional Theater, offers some of the finest stage productions in the country. The *Navy Pier IMAX Theater* hosts many great movie events, including the Hollywood-style Red Carpet premiere of “The Dark Knight,” a worldwide blockbuster that was partially filmed at Navy Pier and McCormick Place. The *Chicago Children’s Museum*, also located at Navy Pier, offers some of the country’s most creative and instructional exhibits for Chicago’s youth. We hope these and other attractions prove that Navy Pier offers a chance for guests of all ages to “Go A Little Overboard” along Chicago’s lakefront.

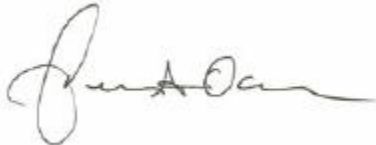
Navy Pier is also a perfect venue for small-to-mid-sized tradeshow and corporate events. Our Grand Ballroom, Festival Hall and Lakeview Terrace offer the latest high-tech amenities, outstanding food service and breath-taking views of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline.

The MPEA has taken important steps to do its part to preserve our environment, both in the everyday activities and the long-term planning for our facilities. The Authority is committed to initiatives designed to conserve energy, protect vital resources and promote ecologically-efficient policies and procedures. Some of these programs include Authority-wide waste reduction/recycling programs, the implementation of biodegradable plastics and energy conservation.

The Authority is especially proud that McCormick Place West Building attained LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) from the U.S. Green Build Council, the organization that sets the standards for what is officially considered environmentally-friendly or “green”. The West Building is the largest new-construction facility in the country to be certified. We achieved this status by designing an energy efficient building whose features include one of Chicago’s largest green roofs and a storm water tunnel which diverts approximately 55 million gallons of storm water runoff into Lake Michigan each year.

The only thing better than our facilities is our employees. Our staff of dedicated, diligent, talented team of professionals makes us the best in the business. Our goal is to ensure that you have a great experience when you visit our facilities. It’s a privilege and responsibility that we take seriously. I am honored to lead the very talented team that makes it happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Ochoa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Juan Ochoa  
Chief Executive Officer  
Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority