

On behalf of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) 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, supporting 66,000 and generating \$8 billion annually for our economy.

As the Trustee of the MPEA, it is my honor to oversee historic changes meant to put our customers first and ensure that our facilities are second to none. Since June, 2010, and as mandated by legislation passed by the Illinois General Assembly, my 18-month role is to work with the seven members of the MPEA Interim Board, appointed by Governor Quinn and Mayor Daley. Our goal is to reform labor rules, establish exhibitor rights and realign McCormick Place and Navy Pier operations with its major competitors. Simply put, we are committed to cutting customer costs, and doing what is necessary to keep their business at McCormick Place and Navy Pier. It is a new day and a new era in Chicago’s convention, trade show and tourism industries.

It is important to point out, however, that McCormick Place is still one of the world’s top destinations for conventions and trade shows... and for good reason. It’s the place where business gets done. McCormick Place hosts more than 100 events a year. Tradeshows held at McCormick Place often break records for attendance, exhibitors and/or exhibit space. 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.

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 *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 Park* offers rides and attractions, including the Navy Pier Ferris wheel, an iconic symbol of Chicago, which has welcomed more than 11 million riders. 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. The *Chicago Children’s Museum*, also located at Navy Pier, offers some of the country’s most creative, educational and entertaining exhibits for Chicago’s youth. Navy Pier also hosts many special events. In the summer of 2010, Navy Pier was the exclusive destination for *Pepsi® Tall Ships Chicago® 2010*, a festival featuring the largest flotilla to ever dock at Pier. These varied and exciting 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.

During the past several years, 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 MPEA 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 dedicated, talented professionals make us the best in the business. Serving you - our customers and guests - is both a privilege and responsibility that we take seriously. I am honored to lead the very talented team that makes it happen. We thank you for visiting our facilities and for choosing us as the site of your conventions, trade shows and meetings.

Sincerely,

James R. Reilly
Trustee
Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority