

Meet Sunny in Greater Fort Lauderdale

When it comes to meetings and conventions, planners find a sunny state of mind in Greater Fort Lauderdale. The LEED® Gold Certified, 600,000 square-foot Broward County Convention Center offers an ideal location on the Intracoastal Waterway and a SUNsational service team. Plus, the all-around accessibility and close proximity of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport make getting down to business here easy.

The Lauderdale Convention Collection of six premier hotels, all within two miles of the Broward Convention Center, provide convenience and incentives when booking the Convention Center. All deliver exceptional service, business-friendly amenities, and a combined 3,500 guest rooms.

Turn a routine seminar into a memorable event by hosting it in an unexpected location. Talk strategy growth in fragrant tropical gardens. Chart your future as you sail along the miles of navigable waterways. Fresh spaces inspire bolder brainstorming, bigger ideas and team building. Host a dinner on stage at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts when a Broadway

performance is not in-house. Unique venues include the Antique Car Museum, Museum of Discovery and Science or the Design Center of the Americas, all featuring expanded special event space offerings.

It's all about the water here. Down-time is perfect for exploring 23 miles of Blue Wave certified beaches, snorkeling, diving, deep-sea fishing, and kayaking. Explore the "Venice of America" via a catamaran, a luxury yacht or the Water Taxi. Find adventure in the exotic Everglades. Or dive into the vibrant downtown Riverwalk Arts and Entertainment scene. Attendees can relax at many area luxurious spas, play a round of golf or hit the casinos, too.

Greater Fort Lauderdale knows how to dish -- from year-round waterfront dining, to ethnic eateries and top-notch seafood/steakhouses. Whether dining al fresco or enjoying a "dock and dine" experience via the Intracoastal Waterway, the opportunities to wow the palate are endless. Chef Henry Sanchez at the Convention Center presents imaginative, restaurant-quality dishes to groups of 20 to 4,000.

Another reason to meet sunny is



Find the key to your next sunny meeting in Greater Fort Lauderdale.

cost efficiency. According to a study by the *Global Business Travel Association Foundation*, Fort Lauderdale ranked #1 out of the top 50 lowest tax-burdened cities in America. This includes both general sales tax and travel-related

services such as hotels, car rentals and meals. Catch the wave of savings when you plan your next event in Greater Fort Lauderdale.

Get down to business at sunny.org/meetings

CVB Update

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our existing marketing campaign, the videos provide another vehicle to tell our story and showcase our great city and people."

The **Hagerstown-Washington County (Md.) CVB** has announced the arrival of its 2014 Visitor Guide, with more than 100,000 currently being distributed.

"The annual Hagerstown-Washington County Visitor Guide is the most sought-after resource about our area," CVB Director of Operations Jolene Thomas told the Hagerstown Herald-Mail. "Residents and visitors

appreciate and utilize the CVB's annual guide to Washington County."

The Visitors Guide includes new introductions for the various sections, as well as focused articles highlighting the area's Civil War heritage, and outdoor adventures.

The 72-page guide includes maps of Hagerstown and Washington County, restaurant and shopping listings, demographics for each town, details about annual special events, a service guide, and an updated accommodations section with symbols representing the different amenities available at hotels, motels, campgrounds, and bed and breakfasts.

The guide is available at the downtown Hagerstown Visitor Welcome Center. Residents and visitors are welcome to stop in and pick up a copy. It also can be requested online at <http://www.marylandmemories.org/visitors-guide.php>. The guide will also be available as a photo flip-book on the CVB's web site.

The Tulsa City Council passed on April 24 a consensus urging the mayor to provide \$1.2 million more to the **Tulsa CVB** in his 2015 budget, the *Park City Daily News* reported.

"This is a formal structure by which we as a council say, 'As you put that budget together, please count on this money being split up in these ways and applied in

these ways so that we don't get a budget with, you know, without this having been considered," Councilor Blake Ewing said during an afternoon committee meeting.

The consensus also calls for allocating \$500,000 to the city's general fund to help offset the approximately \$930,000 subsidy the city provides to the Cox Business Center.

At issue is how to allocate an estimated \$1.7 million to \$1.9 million a year in hotel/motel tax collections that will become available in July. Mayor Dewey Bartlett has said previously that he would like the first \$930,000 of the \$1.7 million to cover the convention center subsidy.

Rochester, New York Is Festival City

This metropolitan region situated on the southern shores of Lake Ontario is also part of New York's breathtaking Finger Lakes region. Rochester is home to world-class events throughout the year.

"Festivals are one of the highlights we mention to groups planning meetings in the Rochester area," says Tracy Armstrong, director of city-wide convention sales for VisitRochester. "Most are free, or have free components to them, making it an ideal opportunity for meeting attendees to bring along family and friends, or to make plans to stay an extra day or two."

Music lovers flock to **Fairport Canal Days** in Rochester every June for the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival featuring a diverse performance roster of 1,500-plus artists performing in more than 300 concerts at 20 venues including 81 free shows.

Fairport Canal Days (June) is one of the biggest events of its kind celebrating the historic Erie Canal. Arts and crafts lovers have plenty of chances to peruse creative offerings in the Rochester area. The Corn Hill Arts

artists and a variety of live music and entertainment in the historic Corn Hill area. The trendy neighborhood known as Park Avenue, hosts the Park Avenue Summer Arts Festival (August), attracting a variety of festival goers. Expect the unexpected at First Niagara Fringe Festival (September), a unique multi-arts festival that both showcases and stimulates creativity.

Visitors enjoy viewing historic High Falls, site of the city's first flour mills or taking a ride along the Erie Canal, which when opened in 1825, made Rochester the country's first "Boomtown." Rochester is home to two national historic landmarks open to the public, The Susan B. Anthony House & Museum and George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, the mansion of Kodak founder George Eastman. Adults and children alike get lost in the fun at The Strong National Museum of Play home to the National Toy Hall of Fame.

Greater Rochester International Airport recently converted to a fully-functional Southwest Airlines market. The



Fairport Canal Days

the most affordable and outstanding facilities of its size in the nation, and Southwest's presence here will do even more to expand on that success. The airline averages six non-stop flights per day from ROC, with connections to

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