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THOMAS & MACK CENTER RANKED AS ONE OF THE HIGHEST GROSSING VENUES IN THE WORLD AND NO. 1 IN GROSS TICKET SALES FOR NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

LAS VEGAS (February 7, 2012) – The Thomas & Mack Center (TMC) recently ranked fourth in the world for highest grossing venues 15,000 and over for Oct. 16 – Nov. 15, 2011. The National Finals Rodeo (NFR) topped the chart as the No. 1 highest grossing ticketed event in the world for venues 15,000-30,000 capacity for October 2010 – October 2011 in the 2011 *Venues Today* Year-End Report issue.

“Being ranked as one of the top venues in *Venues Today* is very important, and it means so much to the staff that works so hard to secure and execute all of our world class events,” said Michael Newcomb, Executive Director of TMC, Sam Boyd Stadium (SBS), and COX Pavilion. “Being ranked fourth really shows what a great city we have in Las Vegas and what great events want to be here. It’s always nice to see your name on the leader board.”

Venues Today, a trade publication for sports and entertainment facilities, ranks venues by gross internationally. The rankings are based only on special, one-time or multiple-day ticketed events, and athletic event ticket sales are not added to this report. The Thomas & Mack Center has consistently ranked in the top 20 highest grossing venues in the 15,001-30,000 seating capacity.

“We operate the most unique set of facilities in the United States,” said Gerry Bomotti, Sr. Vice President for Finance and Business at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. “There is no other example I know of where facilities on a university campus host the depth and breadth of events we do, while still giving a great experience for all the Rebel fans.”

These venue achievements come at the leadership of Newcomb, the newly promoted executive director of the three venues. Newcomb took the helm officially in October 2011 after filling the interim-director position for almost a year and having moved his way up through various TMC positions for the last 15 years.

“I have been lucky enough to work with some great people here at Thomas & Mack since the day I started in the parking lot 15-plus years ago,” Newcomb said. “To be a part of all the different and great events we have had has really been special, and also to be able to learn and grow under some of the most respected people in our industry has been an unbelievable opportunity.”

As the university official that oversees the three venues, Bomotti points out that the venues as a funding source are critical to the overall budget of UNLV Athletics.

“The success of the TMC, SBS, and COX Pavilion reflect very positively on UNLV. We not only give a first rate experience for all Rebel athletic fans, but the profits generated by the events at these venues go right back into supporting the UNLV athletic programs,” Bomotti said. “Although it is not mentioned that often, the programs supported by the TMC, SBS, and COX Pavilion have very significant economic impact on the entire Las Vegas community, as without our venues we could not host the NFR, events like the U2 concert, the USA Sevens Rugby tournament and a host of other events that bring large numbers of visitors to the community.”

Newcomb plans to continue the legacy of Dennis Finrock, Pat Christenson, and Daren Libonati, who have previously directed the facilities.

“It is an honor, and I think the inspiration I take from all of them is to be a leader, think outside the box, and surround yourself with great people who can think and be great,” Newcomb said. “As the director my goals are simple; continue to build relationships and partnerships that will help our facilities be successful. We have to continue to create new revenue streams and look to build new events and grow them into something special.”

The TMC, SBS, and COX Pavilion are on track for an exciting upcoming year and will welcome back many annual event partners including this weekend’s USA Sevens Rugby tournament. Other annual event partners include Feld Entertainment which will bring another run of Disney on Ice, Monster Truck World Finals, and Monster Energy Supercross Finals among other events. NBA Summer League, which was missed last year due to the lockout, will return in July along with the USA Basketball Olympic team that will play an exhibition game before heading to the Olympics in London. Two WWE shows are scheduled as well as the Pro Bull Riders (PBR) Finals, NFR and all of the UNLV sporting events. Most notably Thomas & Mack Center is one of the first few stops on the U.S. tour for this year’s biggest and hottest production show, *Batman Live*.

“The success of our facilities has to do with people and relationships. Our people make a difference,” Newcomb said. “The relationships we have created and the events we have been able to grow to the highest level have been unbelievable. Continuing to improve in all areas for our annual events has been key to our success, as well as having a strong team. I am just happy to be lucky enough to lead that team into the future. With our great facilities, team, university and city of Las Vegas, the future is bright.”

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