





INTRODUCTION

The Cobb Galleria Centre proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024.

When the Cobb Galleria Centre was conceived by its founders, it was envisioned as the first suburban convention center connected to both a full-service hotel and a shopping mall. When it opened, it was regaled as "The Crown Jewel" of Cobb County. As we reflect on our journey 30 years later, we are proud to have exceeded expectations of being an invaluable community resource and economic driver.

Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and the ArtsBridge Foundation both experienced strong years full of diverse programming that enriched the lives of young and old.

As we enter our next chapter, we will reflect on the past in this annual report, with an optimistic eye toward an exciting and bright future. We look forward with anticipation to the next 30 years.

THE **AUTHORITY**

COBB-MARIETTA COLISEUM & EXHIBIT HALL AUTHORITY

FRONT ROW:

Derek Norton Lisa Cupid Jerry Nix Connie Engel

BACK ROW:

Joseph B. Atkins Steve "Thunder" Tumlin Robert P. Voyles



The seven-member Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority is a body corporate and politic created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1980 for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, operating and maintaining facilities for the general purpose of promoting cultural growth, education and welfare.

The Authority owns and operates the Cobb Galleria Centre, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, ArtsBridge Foundation and Galleria Specialty Shops.



During this 30th anniversary year of the Cobb Galleria Centre, I am reflective on all that this Authority has accomplished, both past and present. When John Williams envisioned a convention center and

performing arts center in the Cumberland area back in the 1980s, he could have hardly imagined the transformational, world-class projects it would inspire – making this convention district the most dynamic events and entertainment destination in Atlanta. Earl Smith, my predecessor as Chairman of the Authority who passed away in 2024, was another iconic leader who carried John Williams' vision and executed our most ambitious endeavor to date with the construction of the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. We miss his presence on this Authority, and his unique ability to build consensus for civic projects that provide massive cultural and economic impact.

In 2024 we dedicated a road on the Cobb Galleria campus to the late Johnny Gresham, another long-serving Authority board member. I am grateful to Johnny for the positive spirit he brought to this Authority and for the never-ending support he demonstrated through his leadership on the Personnel Committee. Johnny Gresham Circle provides a permanent legacy for Johnny at one of his favorite places not named Georgia Tech.

General Manager & CEO Michele Swann has stepped down after 29 years. A legend in the venue management industry nationwide, Michele Swann deserves all the credit for her steady leadership and execution of the Authority's vision – among other things – to build the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, start the ArtsBridge Foundation and plan for the renovation and expansion of the Cobb Galleria Centre. She was the most watchful steward of the Authority's budget,

and the longevity and tenure of her staff is a testament to her quiet, humble leadership.

Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre boasted another great year of providing quality performances that landed it 36th on the list of Top Theater Venues Worldwide by Pollstar magazine. The Authority made several investments this year to keep the venue experience state-of-the-art for both performers and guests. ArtsBridge Foundation exposed thousands of students to diverse artistic experiences through field trips and the Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards. Congratulations are in order for ArtsBridge's sixth Southeast EMMY® Award. Thank you to the many individuals and companies listed in this Annual Report who contributed their time and financial resources that allowed us to serve more than 10,000 students, many of whom otherwise would not have access to the arts in a world-class venue.

We have assembled an enviable project team to manage the design and construction of the renovation and expansion of the Cobb Galleria Centre. This transformative project will break ground in fall 2025 and will entail the long-awaited re-purposing of the Galleria Specialty Shops. We outline the rest of the plans in this report. Thank you to Vice Chairman Bob Voyles and the rest of the Authority for leading this project. I look forward to seeing these plans become reality over the next several years.

Sincerely,

JERRY NIX CHAIRMAN

Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority



We are proud to report that 2024 was an exceptional year for the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority. Together the Cobb Galleria Centre and Cobb Energy

Performing Arts Centre surpassed their revenues goals and generated a combined economic and fiscal impact of \$158 million on Cobb County and the state of Georgia.

And it was also a year of celebration as Cobb Galleria Centre reached a significant milestone – three decades of fiscally responsible, self-sustaining operating results.

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, we're looking back at the incredible accomplishments and memories, while at the same time we're looking ahead to reinventing the Galleria campus. There is much more to accomplish as our team is driven to continue innovating and delivering world-class service in this next chapter. After more than six years of commitment and determination by our Authority board, county and city leadership, community stakeholders, and staff, we are launching the much-anticipated expansion and renovation. The BIG IDEA will be iconic and stateof-the-art. Over the past thirty years, the convention center has achieved its mission by generating a positive economic impact, acting as a catalyst for future development and enhancing the quality of life for Cobb County and the state of Georgia.

Our Authority board is committed to making significant investments in our facilities, and this year we completed major upgrades to the convention center's escalators, elevators, moveable partitions, fire alarm system and installed a state-of-the art loudspeaker system in the performing arts center. Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre continues to be the go-to venue for artistic performances, concerts, comedy and special events. In 2024, Pollstar Magazine ranked the Centre at No. 36 for tickets sold as one of the top theater venues worldwide.

The ArtsBridge Foundation continued its mission of providing access to high-quality arts education programming thanks to the generous support from our donors whom you will find listed at the end of this report. The Foundation's signature program, Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards (GHSMTA), celebrating excellence in high school musical theatre, is made possible in cooperation with The Fox Theatre Atlanta and Broadway Across America.

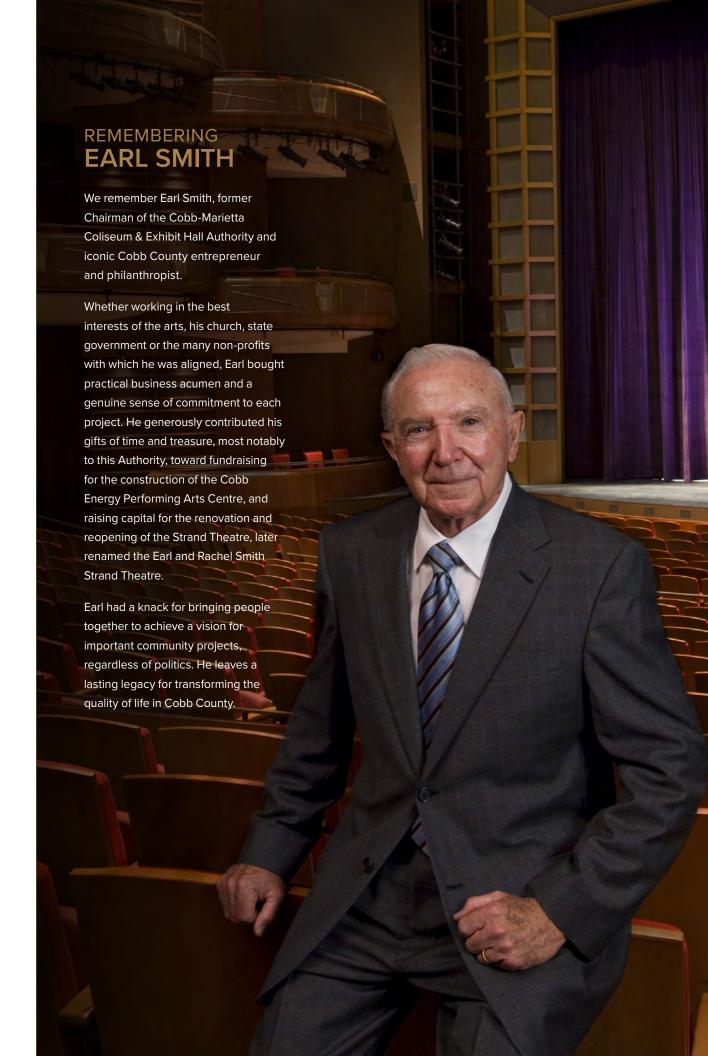
It's always been our team members who make the magic happen and the impossible possible. They are the real driver behind our achievements, and it's their skills and dedication that differentiates us. This year's Annual Report is especially meaningful for me since it's the last letter I will write as your General Manager & CEO. It's been an honor and a privilege to have led this respected organization, and I will always be proud of the many accomplishments we have achieved together.

Mille L. Juan

Sincerely,

MICHELE L. SWANN
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority







COBB GALLERIA CENTRE





Conventions, meetings, and all types of events were back in full force in 2024. The pent-up demand from the pandemic years led to an increase in multi-day events, attendance and exhibitor participation. Among the highlights for hotel room nights were the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), BCX gaming, Anime Weekend Atlanta, Junior Theater Festival, A5 Volleyball's Beast of the Southeast and Southern Exposure tournaments, Lendmark Financial Services, Atlanta Shoe Market, Atlanta Jewelry Show, Environments for the Aging, The Blade Show, Best of the South basketball tournament and Southern-Fried Gaming Expo. The Centre celebrated the 20th Anniversary of The Cobb Tradeshow, a men's apparel buying show produced four times a year at Cobb Galleria Centre by the Atlanta Apparel Exhibition Group. Annually, the show brings more than 1,600 buyers and exhibitors to the community who fill more than 1,000 hotel room nights.

Major capital improvements to the convention center were completed earlier this year including the installation of an energyefficient escalator in the Rotunda intended to create a better customer experience, increased efficiency and cost savings. Additionally, movable partitions – or airwalls – were replaced in all exhibition halls and ballrooms. An acoustical consultant has ensured that the partition assembly was designed to minimize noise bleed between the divided spaces with top-of-the-line acoustical performance. They have industry leading sound ratings, along with premium aesthetics. In the exhibit hall, three airwalls allow the 144,000-square-foot hall to be divided into four sections. In the ballroom, airwalls facilitate the division of the 25,000-square-foot ballroom into up to seven sections. The Centre also has a new fire alarm system. The Potter IPA-4000V is an enhanced addressable fire alarm system with voice integration. The panel features all preexisting fire highlights and shares new innovative voice functionalities to provide reliability and safety with the panel. The escalator, airwalls and fire alarm system were original to the facility.











Cobb Galleria Centre launched an enhanced website to extend the outreach of the venue to all audiences – event planners, exhibitors and guests. The newly redesigned, interactive cobbgalleria.com is mobile first and features a modern design, improved user experience, an interactive floor plan, virtual tours, a dynamic events calendar, online ordering for exhibitor services, and immediate connection to the venue's social media channels and blog. The new site was designed and built by Clockwork WP.

In its 30th year, the Centre celebrated the 30th anniversary of two original employees. Arthur "Mac" McDowell is the Authority's longest tenured employee ever. He joined the Centre in December 1993, one month before the building opened. McDowell oversees Set Up and Housekeeping at both Cobb Galleria Centre and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. James Patrick began working for the Centre as part of Masterpiece Creations – the original catering company for the Centre – also in December 1993. Flash forward 30 years later, and you'll still see him mixing drinks at the bars.

COBB GALLERIA CENTRE

Operating revenues exceeded expectations as business remained strong.

Fiscal year ended September 30, 2024

 OPERATING REVENUES
 \$ 13,118,000

 Operating Expenses
 (11,518,000)

 OPERATING RESULTS*
 \$ 1,600,000

COBB GALLERIA CENTRE 2024

Total Events

201

Total Attendance

219,000



COBB GALLERIA CENTRE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Since opening 30 years ago, Cobb Galleria Centre has generated \$4 billion in economic impact on Cobb County and the state of Georgia.



1980

Establishment of The Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority by the Georgia General Assembly.





1991

Feasibility study for a convention center and performing arts center commissioned.







1994
Opening of
Cobb Galleria Centre.

1996

Acquisition of an 11-Acre tract of land for future expansion.



Recognition as one of North America's busiest convention centers.



1998

Opening of a pedestrian sky bridge connecting the center to Cumberland Mall.



2002

Expansion adds an additional 36,000 sf exhibition hall and 650-space parking deck.



2003

Announcement of plans to build a performing arts center.



2005

Establishment of a Foundation for performing arts center fundraising.



2007

Debut of the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.



2014

Foundation rebrands to ArtsBridge Foundation, with a focus on arts education and outreach.



2017

Opening of a multi-purpose bridge that connects to the Battery Atlanta and Truist Park.



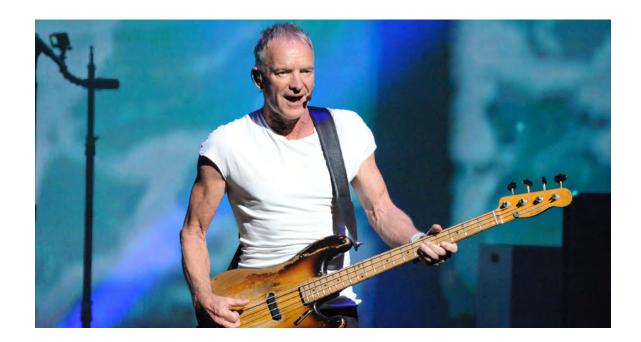
Debut of a 100-foot-tall, digital outdoor marquee overlooking I-285.



2024

Renovation and expansion of Cobb Galleria Centre and repurposing of the Galleria Specialty Shops announced.





COBB ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre's growing influence and success in the global venue community is reflected in its No. 36 ranking in Pollstar's Top 200 Theatres Worldwide. This achievement highlights the Centre's dedication to excellence in hosting a diverse array of performances and events, attracting top-tier talent and large audiences from around the globe.

In 2024, the Centre's commitment to providing outstanding experiences for both performers and audiences included another successful BET Hip Hop Awards show as well as hundreds of performances highlighted by Johnny Mathis, Derek Hough, Travis Tritt, Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith, Dwight Yoakam, Tamia & Joe, Donny Osmond, Bluey's Big Play and Bill Maher.

Resident companies The Atlanta Opera and Atlanta Ballet showcased groundbreaking, world-class productions in the John A. Williams Theatre. Atlanta Ballet staged several world premieres as well as the much-anticipated North American Premiere of Coco Chanel The Life of a Fashion Icon and 22 performances of the ever popular The Nutcracker. The Atlanta Opera's innovative season was highlighted by Wagner's Die Walküre, a continuation of the "Ring" cycle, as well as well-reviewed performances of Verdi's Rigoletto and Puccini's La Bohème.

The Centre launched the new Skyline Lounge on the Grand Tier. This new VIP space includes exclusive use of the lounge starting prior to showtime and during













intermission, access to a dedicated bar featuring exclusive specialty cocktails, and food and drink included with lounge admission.

The recently completed audio system upgrade included the replacement of the main loudspeaker system at the John A. Williams Theatre. Thirty loudspeakers from the original installation were replaced with new, modern, state-of-the-art loudspeakers. This upgrade provides a high-quality listening experience for all audience members seated in the theatre. The loudspeaker system design was completed by Theatre Projects and the installation was completed by Sound Associates with assistance from Atlanta Rigging Systems.

COBB ENERGY CENTRE

Operating revenues finished the year ahead of expectations.

Fiscal year ended September 30, 2024

| OPERATING REVENUES | \$ 10,758,000 |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Operating Expenses | (7,558,000) |
| OPERATING RESULTS* | \$ 3,200,000 |

*Operating results do not include depreciation expense.

COBB ENERGY CENTRE 2024

Total Events/Performances 191

Total Attendance

215,000











IMPACT

The Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority engaged a third party firm to perform an Economic Impact Study for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. The study provides an independent analysis of the total financial impact of the combined operations of Cobb Galleria Centre and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre on Cobb County and the state of Georgia.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

| COBB COUNTY | COBB GALLERIA CENTRE | COBB ENERGY CENTRE | COMBINED |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Total Economic Impact | \$ 85,560,000 | \$ 20,700,000 | \$106,260,000 |
| Employment (number of FTE jobs) | 610 | 150 | 760 |
| STATE OF GEORGIA (INCLUDES COUNT | Y) | | |
| Total Economic Impact | \$129,660,000 | \$ 28,640,000 | \$158,300,000 |
| Employment (number of FTE jobs) | 850 | 200 | 1,050 |

Total Economic Impact is the total direct, indirect and induced spending effects generated by each facility's operations. Employment represents the number of full and part time jobs supported by each facility's operations.

TAX REVENUE IMPACT

| COBB COUNTY | GALI | COBB LERIA CENTRE | ENE | COBB RGY CENTRE | (| COMBINED |
|---|------|----------------------|-----|--------------------|----|-----------|
| Local Option, Liquor by the Drink, Hotel/Motel Tax | \$ | 956,000 | \$ | 456,000 | \$ | 1,412,000 |
| STATE OF GEORGIA | | | | | | |
| Sales & Use Tax, Individual and | | | | | | |
| Corporate Income Tax | \$ | 4,160,000 | \$ | 1,620,000 | \$ | 5,780,000 |
| Total Tax Revenue Impact | \$ | 5.116.000 | \$ | 2.076.000 | \$ | 7.192.000 |

HISTORICAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

An Economic Impact Study for the Authority's venues is prepared annually by a third party firm. The table below provides a 10-year history of the Total Economic Impact on the State of Georgia (including Cobb County).

Total Economic Impact is the total direct, indirect and induced spending effects generated by each facility's operations. The decreases for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 are pandemic related.

| FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30 | COBB GALLERIA CENTRE | COBB ENERGY CENTRE | COMBINED |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2015 | \$ 122,702,000 | \$ 19,820,000 | \$ 142,522,000 |
| 2016 | 131,227,000 | 24,184,000 | 155,411,000 |
| 2017 | 135,754,000 | 25,357,000 | 161,111,000 |
| 2018 | 172,228,000 | 25,402,000 | 197,630,000 |
| 2019 | 144,885,000 | 28,851,000 | 173,736,000 |
| 2020 | 70,055,000 | 15,737,000 | 85,792,000 |
| 2021 | 36,058,000 | 2,664,000 | 38,722,000 |
| 2022 | 142,360,000 | 23,110,000 | 165,470,000 |
| 2023 | 144,730,000 | 24,690,000 | 169,420,000 |
| 2024 | 129,660,000 | 28,640,000 | 158,300,000 |

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES

Debt service for Cobb Galleria Centre is provided for by a portion of the Hotel/Motel and Liquor by the Drink Taxes collected by Cobb County and six of the municipalities within the county. The Authority has entered into separate agreements with the county and municipalities in which all or a portion of the Hotel/Motel and Liquor By The Drink Tax collections are remitted directly to the Authority's Bond Trustee for debt service. Remaining amounts fund the Authority's contractual payments to the county and municipalities and provide funding for Cobb Travel & Tourism.

Fiscal year ended September 30, 2024

| Gross Tax Revenues Remitted to the Bond Trustee: | |
|--|------------------|
| Hotel/Motel Tax | \$ 22,982,000 |
| Liquor By The Drink Tax | 1,625,000 |
| | \$ 24,607,000 |
| Debt Service | (5,034,000) |
| | \$ 19,573,000 |
| Contractual Payments Back to the | |
| County/Municipalities | (12,126,000) |
| Cobb Travel & Tourism Funding | (1,876,000) |
| Intergovernmental Revenue Surplus | \$ 5,571,000 |



ARTSBRIDGE FOUNDATION

The 2023-2024 season for ArtsBridge Foundation was a year of growth and creativity, underscoring its mission to expand arts access for Georgia students.

Field Trips were a core element of the season, exposing thousands of students to diverse artistic experiences. Highlights included the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, which used orchestral accompaniment to reimagine classic children's fairytales, and The Carp Who Would Not Quit, a captivating production featuring artful puppetry and theater to share traditional Japanese fables. Atlanta Ballet's The Nutcracker brought this beloved holiday tradition to new audiences, while The Jason Bishop Show left students in awe with grand illusions and cutting-edge magic. Mayhem Poets used a powerful mix of hip-hop, theater, improv, and comedy to explore timely topics relevant to today's students, while ArtsKSU Revue demonstrated the dynamic performing arts programs at Kennesaw State University.

This year, the Georgia High School Musical
Theatre Awards (GHSMTA) celebrated its "Sweet
16," with 60 schools participating. Students
received invaluable feedback from industry
professionals, helping elevate their artistic
programs statewide. The GHSMTA also earned its
sixth Southeast EMMY® Award for live coverage of
the 2023 GHSMTA ceremony.

The Donor Luncheon was a heartfelt occasion to thank and celebrate donors' generosity.

Surrounded by student-led art, donors experienced firsthand the lasting impact their support has on young artists. It was a meaningful occasion to express gratitude, build connections, and look forward to another year of artistic growth and collaboration.

The Overture Gala, "Blue Rhapsody," was another major highlight. The evening featured performances by SCAD's BeeSharps, C.J. Hicks Elementary's Fantastic Falcons, and the Georgia Dozen, GHSMTA's 2024 leading performer nominees. More than \$200,000 was raised through live and silent auctions, with guests deeply moved by the stories and performances. Mark your calendars for Gala 2025, scheduled for August 23rd.















ARTSBRIDGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Barbara E. Williams (Emeritus) Former State Farm Agent & **Cobb County Commissioner**

ARTSBRIDGE FOUNDATION, INC.

Fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 (unaudited)

SUPPORT AND REVENUES \$ 771,000 Expenses (960,000)**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** \$ (189,000)

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

PRODUCER \$25,000+

Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority Georgia Lottery The Imlay Foundation Walton Communities Zeist Foundation

DIRECTOR \$10.000 - \$24.999

Amazor

Bennett Thrasher Foundation Inc. Jimmy & Helen S. Carlos Cobb Travel & Tourism Delta Community Credit Union Genuine Parts Company Georgia Council for the Arts Georgia Institute of Technology Gene & Patricia T. Henssler Jay & Christine Nix Jerry & Cheryl Nix

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\$2,500-\$9,999 AT&T Coastal States John Azzolino David Berg Charles and Erin Chesnutt Deborah Lee Wachsman Trust Rene & Barbarella Diaz Bruce & Sylvia Dick Ed Voyles Automotive Group Aris Iiwani KIA Motors America Inc. Shari B. Martin Jason Marx McKenney's, Inc. Rod & Kathy McLean

Lesia Mescudi Morgan Family Fund Maripat Newington Publix Super Markets Inc Renasant Bank Clare Richardson Corey Rosenfeld Napoleon and Gail Rutledge Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) Scicom Infrastructure Services, Inc. Smiley for Kylie Southern Company Subaru of Kennesaw Ticketmaster LLC Joanne Truffelman

Tull Charitable Foundation

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Children's Healthcare of Atlanta CHUBB

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Nicole Peterson James Rhoden Jr. William Rosenfeld Bennie Shaw Luci Sunshine **Rob Turner** Mary Wellington

Stephen Weizenecker Cynthia Widner Wall Stephen Williams Troy Williams

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Leslie Angel

John Anish John Arnoult, Jr. Edward Beyer Susan Burchell Peggy Carter Stacey Chapman Brian Cheek Lynn Cochran-Schrode Bill Collette Robin Cook Tonia Davis Lisa Desdunes Michele Egan Sarah Emamian Marla Ferrell Macke Ford

Carson Funderburk Shelly George Sharon Goldmacher Dale Gustafson Jessica Guthrie Kevin Harrigan Brandon and Ashley Hartley John Hill Patti Humble

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IN-KIND

Alliance Theatre Atlanta Brand Central, LLC Atlanta News First The Atlanta Opera

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Listing reflects gifts made between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024.





WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER

After extensive planning and the commissioning of multiple supporting studies in conjunction with design, master planning, pre-construction analysis, and financial review, the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority is moving forward with the expansion and renovation of the Cobb Galleria Centre. This transformative project is scheduled to break ground in fall of 2025 and be completed in early 2027.

The Authority has assembled a renowned team of Cobb County-based firms to manage the design and construction. Rule Joy Trammell & Rubio (RJTR) has been selected as project architect, Holder Construction will be the construction manager on the project, and Impact Development Management serves as owner's representative and project manager. These team members have extensive experience in complex design and construction projects across the Southeast and the United States.

The master plan scope includes the demolition of Galleria Specialty Shops and second floor meeting rooms and the creation of an exciting, new twostory grand entryway with an expansive glass curtain wall fronting a reconfigured motor court. It will connect to a new, connected parking deck with covered, all-weather access into the expanded facility. The expansion will consist of an additional 13,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space to include a 7,200-square-foot junior ballroom, two unique outdoor event courtyards and gardens, and 10 right-sized meeting rooms. Many of the new spaces will have natural lighting. New food and beverage retail options will include a 3,000 square foot casual restaurant and a grab-and-go market.

The project also includes an extensive renovation and facelift of existing convention space, concourse, rotunda and ballroom. The project will incorporate the innovative trends of the

conventions and meetings industry and compliment the surrounding Cumberland area developments that include Galleria on the Park, Truist Park, The Battery Atlanta, Cumberland Mall, and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

The renovated, expanded convention center will be a best-in-class facility that will continue to attract and retain meeting planners due to the facility's flexible spaces, superb location, world-class service, and award-winning food and beverage operations.





Where it all comes together.

We wish to express our appreciation to the members of the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority and to the numerous business leaders who continue to support us.

We also wish to thank LevelOne Design for their efforts designing this Annual Report.

The Atlanta Opera Photography by Raftermen

Atlanta Ballet photography by Shoccara Marcus

Additional photography by Chris Savas and Elliott Gordon