

Final Letter from the President

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last official President's message for the Convention Connection newsletter as I retire at the end of May from the Seattle Convention Center. I have been in the facility management business for almost 45 years! Forty of those years were spent serving as the Executive Director or General Manager and CEO of four buildings in three cities. As I look back on all the experiences, I find myself reflecting on the many clients I have met, the large variety of events I was part of, but the best by far is all the great staff I've worked with.

This business gets under your skin, and you end up enjoying the event business because of the people you meet, and the friendships and relationships you develop over the years. The convention center business is really a small universe of about 250 centers across the country, and many of my peers in the industry are also my friends. While we competed for business, the best part of this industry is the sharing of information and knowledge, helping each other when needed, and providing and receiving mentorship along the way. I could not have achieved as much success in this industry without the collaboration and connections with colleagues, vendors, staff, and a very supportive family.

It has gone by quickly, as they say, and I would not have done anything different or wanted to be in any other industry. It has been my pleasure to work along side so many professional, passionate, competent coworkers here in Seattle. This is a great city, a wonderful place to work and you all are the best team in the country. I am so proud of all we have accomplished, especially getting through the pandemic, constructing and opening a new half million square foot building and setting the stage for its future success.

I wish to thank the Board for its support over the last 12½ years. I also want to thank all of you for your hard work, dedication, long hours, and awesome talent that quite frankly made my job fun and rewarding. I'm very glad I made the move to Seattle.

Keep pushing the customer service envelope to uphold SCC's reputation as the best in the business to bring events back to our beautiful city and campus again and again.

I wish you all much success in the future and my everlasting gratitude.



Jeffrey A. Blosser
President & CEO



INSIDE

- 2.....Celebrating Employees
- 3.....Event Calendar
- 4.....Art Corner
- 5.....Save the Date
- 6.....Client Compliments
- 7.....Shred Event
- 8.....Safety Committee -
Emergency Tools Access
- 9.....Bike & Scooter Sharing

Celebrating Employees

Featured Employee | Leondre Birt, Set-Up Attendant



Leondre Birt started working on the Set-Up Crew at the convention center five months ago. He finds satisfaction in seeing successful set-ups and loves collaborating with diverse teams and people. The crews take on a variety of responsibilities, such as setting up meeting rooms, converting set-ups, refreshing spaces, maintaining facilities, handling recycling operations, managing trash removal, and providing housekeeping services. It's a dynamic position that demands attention to detail and adaptability to guarantee seamless event operations.

While still in school, Leondre planned events with friends and took on leadership roles in school projects. During those years, he honed important skills such as paying attention to detail, prioritizing, organizing, and learning the ins and outs of problem-solving for various situations. Now working on the set-up crew, he says his leads, crew chiefs, and managers allow him to seize the initiative to find his own solutions to problems.

There's always an open dialogue as he continues to learn. On top of that, his colleagues are "great!". As a team, they constantly strive to improve, support each other, and celebrate their achievements together. The positive feedback they receive from clients and the smooth execution of events are clear indicators of their excellence.

Outside of work, he loves to play team sports like basketball and football. It's a great way to have fun, stay fit, and bond with friends.

Half-a-Dozen Questions | Theo Holman, Transportation Attendant

Q If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

A *Cape Town, South Africa, because it is connected to my ancestors.*

Q Who in your life has influenced you the most? How did they do that?

A *My grandparents – the examples set and mentorship from their life lessons.*

Q What's the one word you would choose to describe yourself?

A *Tenacious.*

Q If you could go back in history, who would you like to meet?

A *Frederick Douglass.*

Q In your life, what is life's greatest lesson?

A *Be a sponge to everyone and every experience.*

Q If you could be a particular singer/musician, who would you be?

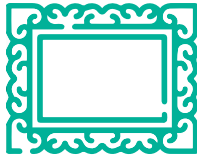
A *Singer – Michael Jackson / Musician – Jimi Hendrix.*



Event Calendar

| EVENT | VENUE | ATTENDANCE | DATES |
|--|--------|------------|-----------|
| WSDA 2024 Pacific Northwest Dental Conference | Summit | 4,500 | 5/7-5/11 |
| Friends of Dow Constantine Annual Filing Week Luncheon | Summit | 450 | 5/9-5/10 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. County Labor Council Reception | Summit | 250 | 5/10 |
| Snoqualmie Tribe Annual General Council Meeting | Arch | 600 | 5/11 |
| BUILD 2024 - Microsoft | Summit | 6,000 | 5/12-5/25 |
| DevOpsDays Seattle 2024 | Arch | 400 | 5/13-5/15 |
| ANIME Impulse, K-PLAY! FEST and Sneaker Expo | Arch | 20,000 | 5/15-5/20 |
| Telangana American Telugu Association 2024 TTA Mega Convention | Arch | 8,000 | 5/23-5/27 |
| Artificial Intelligence & Internet of Things 2024 | Arch | 60 | 5/29-5/31 |
| PSBJ Women Who Lead Summit 2024 - Puget Sound Business Journal | Summit | 350 | 5/30 |
| PSRC Annual General Assembly - Puget Sound Regional Council | Summit | 175 | 5/30 |
| Moz 2024 MozCon | Summit | 800 | 5/31-6/4 |
| GE Orchestrate NAM 2024 | Summit | 450 | 6/1-6/7 |
| Microsoft Aspire Start Strong FY24 | Arch | 3,000 | 6/1-6/7 |
| TechCon365 & PWRCON - Power Platform Conference | Arch | 850 | 6/2-6/7 |
| The Bush Upper School Graduation 2024 | Summit | 1,000 | 6/6-6/7 |
| ABA 2024 Risk and Compliance Conference - American Bankers Association | Arch | 2,100 | 6/8-6/14 |
| PVSC - 2024 52nd IEEE - Photovoltaic Specialists Conference, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers | Summit | 1,200 | 6/8-6/14 |
| Wekfest Seattle 2024 | Arch | 2,000 | 6/8-6/9 |
| MPS World Summit 2024 - Microphysiological Systems | Summit | 800 | 6/9-6/14 |

Art Corner



The Western Washington regional chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators was scheduled to showcase their artwork in the SCC Rotating Art Program in 2020. The Program was put on hold until recently, and the group was thrilled to have a chance to show their work.

On Saturday, April 6th, the SCC art program hosted members of the Society and their families. About 40 members gathered on Level 2 of Arch, strolled the gallery viewing the art, and clustered around tables enjoying the opportunity to draw and create art with each other. The event was held in celebration of their rotating art exhibit, on display through mid-July. The exhibit is an illustration showcase of individual works created to represent the imaginings of authors and their stories.



Art from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators being measured and spaced for installation on Arch Level 2.



Scan this QR code to go to <https://hub.catalogit.app/11425/folder/eb1b49c0-3c6d-11ee-8ef6-353f9b72fac8> to view a library of art at Seattle Convention Center in Arch and Summit.

Help Protect our Art

SCC is proud to feature a public art program with a variety of artworks across the campus. Because the purpose of art is to be looked at and studied, damage is one of the first thing visitors might notice. We can all help to keep our art in good condition by monitoring visitors, event activity and equipment within proximity to art. If you see anything that may result in damage to art, please contact Linda Willanger or Mara Vostral immediately. Prevention is more economical than repairs. Thank you!

Save the Date



Jeff Blosser is Retiring!

After 12½ years of dedicated service as President/CEO at SCC and 45 years in the industry, Jeff is hanging up his badge and embarking on a new chapter of life.

We invite you to celebrate his remarkable career and wish him well as he steps into retirement.

Wednesday, May 29, 11:30am – 1:00pm

Level 2 Admin Breakroom

Snacks, cake and beverages will be provided.

All Staff Save the Date - Summit


Mid-year All Staff | Thursday, July 18

More information to follow.

Thanks! Monthly Prize Winners

To: Terrence Goodwin
Exceptional customer service
to an OSS NA + EOSS attendee
with special needs.

From: **Mark Wilkins** 

To: **Michael Spencer** 
Thanks for quickly providing me
last year's invoicing of waste
data for sustainability analysis
during Amazon Accelerate 2023!
From: Earl Taylor

To: **Brian Stewart** 

Stepping up to work late during
NWES exhibitor move-in to
support unscheduled activity.

From: Liz Brostrom

To: Daniel Tadele

Stepping up to clean the H17
Summit Elevator after someone
threw up in it during Sakura-
Con. He quickly got a wet vac
to clean and then ran to get a
disinfectant spray to finish.

From: **Lloyd Robinson** 

To: Susan Eisele

Great job with crowd control at
opening of Planted Expo Seattle
and for being knowledgeable
with extra information.

From: **Ann Ahllook** 

To: **Diego Crisostomo** 

Thanks for creating dozens of
diagrams for max room sets at
Summit! This will be helpful for
the whole organization.

From: Krista Daniel

Client Compliments



Hi John,

On behalf of CaNVAS, I wanted to reach out to say thank you to you and your staff for all your hard work in setting up for our event last week at ASPHO. Your staff was very helpful and attentive throughout the entire meeting. Our meeting could not have gone as smoothly as it did without your team!

Thank you again,

Joelle
Program Coordinator
CaNVAS Consortium



John,

Thank you so much to you and your team for an incredible conference! The food was delicious and your team was great to work with. Everyone had incredible things to say so thank you!

Thank you.

Michelle Scherer & the ASPHO team



We had a wonderful time at Seattle & in the Summit! Thanks to your full team our event was a big success.

Monique Rodarte
AVEVA IGNITE 2024



Hi Roberto and Troy,

I hope you are both resting well during these last few days of March! I wanted to thank you both for your help as we planned our gala at the convention center for the first time. Our crowd loved the venue and the food, and of course, we have you to thank for it!

Thank you both again, and hope you enjoy the weekend ahead!

Warmly,

Woogee Bae
Events & Annual Giving Manager
Seattle Arts & Lectures



Cathy,

I wanted to take the chance to thank you for everything you did to make our meeting a success. You've been an absolute pleasure to work [with] and your teams efforts have been a huge part in our success. I hope to be back and work with you again soon!

Thank you!

Michelle Scherer
ASPHO

Shred Event

On Monday, April 29, SCC shredded 178 boxes of outdated, duplicate, and unnecessary documents from the Administrative, Finance, and Human Resources departments. This shredding project was the first (of hopefully many) since the COVID-19 pandemic and has opened up a lot of filing space.

Using the services of Le May Mobile Shredding, all participating departments removed bindings, metals, and plastic from the paper, loaded everything into archival boxes, and carted it to the loading dock with the assistance of the Operations and Transportation Services teams. The papers were unpacked, piled into a 95-gallon bucket, and raised into a shredding mechanism on Le May's truck, similar to how a garbage truck picks up trash cans via a hopper. The boxes lined up end-to-end were about the length of the Summit Market lobby!

After shredding, all paper is 100% recycled. According to Le May's website, "[e]very ton of recycled paper may save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% electricity savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 lbs less of air pollution! – The 17 trees saved may absorb a total of 250 pounds of CO2 from the air every year."

In addition to freeing up space on our shelves, this manner of shredding also ensures we maintain the confidentiality of our documents and have a record of what was properly destroyed, thanks to the diligence put into preparing the boxes.

Thank you to the teams in Administration, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, and Transportation Services for making this shredding event possible and successful! We hope to have more shredding events in the future, so if your department has a surplus of outdated paper, please contact Administrative Records Manager Hannah Ermi to coordinate a future shred.



Boxes of paper waiting for shredding, stacked on carts and lining the loading dock wall.



Shredding services were on site at SCC on Monday, April 29. Items were shredded in the truck at the Arch Loading Dock.

Safety Committee - Emergency Tools Access

The SCC Safety Committee would like to remind all staff about maintaining clear emergency exit routes and access to important emergency preparedness items. These emergency items are often blocked due to equipment left in the way or when spaces become disorganized. However, it can be easily avoided or corrected with just a little awareness and effort.

An exit route is the path leading from inside the building to outside. These routes, including entrances, hallways, and fire stairwells, are used to evacuate the building in an emergency. If you are ever unsure of the exit route in an area, the simplest way to find out is to look for Fire Exit signs.

The door below the exit sign needs to be clear, and so does the path leading to the sign. When you look at the path, think about if you could get through safely and if others can, such as those in a wheelchair or a large crowd evacuating from an exhibit hall.

We also encourage staff to be familiar with emergency equipment that we don't use every day but becomes vital when an emergency occurs. Again, these items must remain accessible at all times, even by people who utilize wheelchairs. We can place emergency equipment into three categories: Communications, Medical, and Fire. Below you can see examples of items at SCC that fall into each category.

Communications

- Red phones
- Call stations

Medical

- First aid kits
- AEDs
- Eye wash stations

Fire

- Fire pull stations
- Fire extinguishers (often inside a cabinet labeled "Extinguisher")
- Fire hose cabinets or connections



To: **Joyce Smith** 🏆

Great job with crowd control and tickets at Planted Expo Seattle opening.

From: Ann Ahlalook

To: **Isabella Chamberlain** 🏆

Thanks for compiling detailed sustainability information for Comic Con. Great work!

From: Krista Daniel

Bike & Scooter Sharing

As the weather warms up, Seattle locals might decide to use some of the bike or scooter rental services available, whether to commute to work or for personal adventures.

It's easy to find a ride from anywhere in the city. Open the Uber app and select the '2-Wheels' option from the top menu to reserve nearby options quickly and easily. Or, download apps for any of the many options available.

- [Lime](#) bikes or scooters rent for \$1 plus varying rates per minute. All rentals are dockless and include an electric assist that provides a boost of up to 15mph.
- [VEO's](#) Cosmo-e bike is suitable for a range of physical abilities and preferences. The Cosmo-e provides users with the option of pedaling or using the throttle for an extra boost to their destination.
- [Bird's](#) electric-assist pedaling and stowage baskets are suitable for hilly Seattle commutes and feature easily adjustable seats for a variety of users.
- [Bird](#) and [Lime](#) electric scooters dot the streets of Seattle as an alternative way to move through the city.

Users without a smartphone can enroll using text options listed on the Seattle [Scooter and Bike Share webpage](#). This page also contains helpful 'how to' information, opportunities for discounted fares, and access to helmets, plus other helpful links.



Rent. Ride. Repeat.



Thanks! Monthly Prize Winners

To: **Andrew King** 

Thank you for helping me get my computer up and running the day after our internet interruption. You are so kind and patient with my lack of tech skills. I appreciate you greatly.

From: Mary Clare Kersten

To: **Teshome Woldemariam** 

Your leadership skills are impressive. Thank you for getting event rooms show ready for multiple events in April.

From: Bek Hassanov