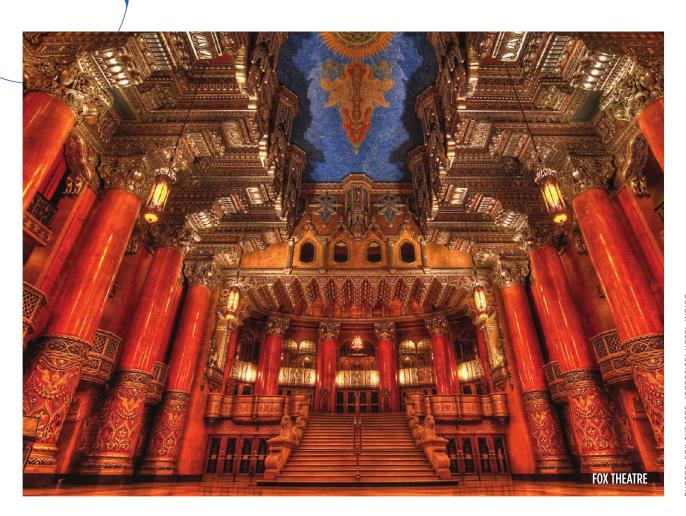
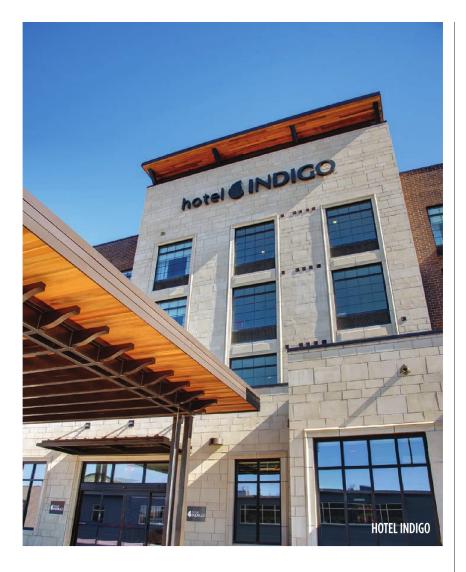




So it's inspiring to see so many long-standing vendors and venues continue to earn our readers' loyalty. Newcomers are welcome and often impress, but we clearly have many industry players that built their operations to last.

So hats off to our winners—you've earned your recognition.





TOP VENUES

With such an embarrassment of riches in the mix for venues, the Fox Theatre can be especially proud of its position as our readers' choice for Best Meeting/Event Venue (in Detroit Metro Area, No Hotel). The ornate, 5,000-seat theater, designed by architect C. Howard Crane, was built in 1928. Today it's a designated National Historic Landmark. Planners can choose to bring guests to the Fox's gorgeous Grand Lobby for a reception, or take over the whole theater for a truly unforgettable experience.

And though Detroit may be our state's largest city, it's certainly not the only one attracting large groups. Grand Rapids is home to state-of-the-art venues, gorgeous green spaces and renowned cultural institutions. And in the case of the 158-acre Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, which combines cuttingedge meeting and event space with beautiful art and lush gardens, you can get all three. So it's easy to see why it wins Best Meeting/Event Venue (outside of Detroit Metro, No Hotel) year after year.

We try to stay neutral on matters of collegiate rivalries. But our readers do not-and we clearly have some Spartans reading these pages, because Michigan State University is our winner for Best College/University Venue for the third year in a row. The home of the green-and-white boasts top-notch spaces like the Breslin Center, Wharton Center, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Huntington Club at Spartan Stadium, the MSU Union and MSU Chapel.

A university is a wonderful place to host multiple meetings and events simultaneously. Sometimes, though, you have to pull everyone together in one space, and that's a job for a convention center. Michigan is in something of a golden age of convention centers, between major renovations and new sites com-



BEST MEETING/EVENT VENUE (IN DETROIT METRO, NO HOTEL) Fox Theatre

Detroit

olympiaentertainment.com | 313.471.3333

Runners-up» The Henry Ford, Detroit Athletic Club

BEST MEETING/EVENT VENUE (OUTSIDE OF DETROIT METRO, NO HOTEL)

Frederik Meijer Gardens & **Sculpture Park**

Grand Rapids

meijergardens.org | 616.957.1580

Runners-up» DeVos Place Convention Center; Bavarian Inn Restaurant

BEST COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY VENUE Michigan State University

East Lansing

kelloggcenter.com | 517.884.8117

Runners-up» University of Michigan, Central Michigan University

BEST CONVENTION CENTER DeVos Place Convention Center Grand Rapids

devosplace.org | 616.742.6500

Runners-up» Cobo Center, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

BEST INTIMATE VENUE Black Star Farms

Traverse City

blackstarfarms.com | 231.944.1270

Runners-up» Zingerman's Cornman Farms, Chateau Chantal

BEST NEW VENUE (DECEMBER 2015 - DECEMBER 2016) **Hotel Indigo**

Traverse City

hotelindigo.com | 231.932.0500

Runners-up» Knickerbocker Brewpub & Distillery, Zingerman's Greyline

BEST RENOVATION Cobo Center

Detroit

cobocenter.com | 313.877.8777

Runners-up» Grand Traverse Resort and Spa; Mission Point Resort



Mission Point Earns Accolades

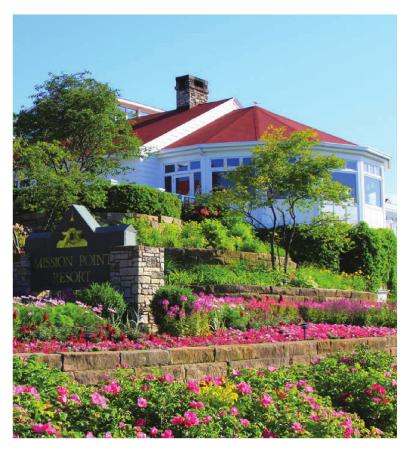
Mission Point marked its third anniversary under new ownership with a number of regional and national nods.

Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards named Mission Point the best resort on Mackinac Island, as well as No. 7 in the Midwest. (The Grand Hotel, the island's only other hotel, was ranked No. 9 in the Midwest.) More than 300,000 people voted in the 2016 awards.

Shape chose Mission Point as one of three "Best Family Getaways" in 2016, calling out the hotel's kids' club, kite flying and new wellness center.

Finally, Midwest Living listed Mission Point as one of three Mackinac hotels in its annual Best of the Midwest issue.

The Ware family bought Mission Point in 2014 and has made extensive changes and upgrades to the property since. Set on 18 acres of lakefront property where Lake Huron meets Lake Michigan, the 239-room resort includes four restaurants, a waterfront 18-hole putting course, tennis court, observation tower and museum, movie theater, Mackinac Arts Council and the Center for the Arts Gallery. Additionally, the property offers more than 38,000 square feet of flexible function space for meetings and events. *missionpoint.com*



GLCVB NAMES CTA OF THE YEAR



Doug Klein, CTA, executive director of the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce, is the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau's 2016 Certified Tourism Ambassador of the Year. Klein was honored at the bureau's

annual meeting in February at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

The Greater Lansing Certified Tourism Ambassador program aims to equip hospitality and tourism employees with in-depth knowledge of the area's assets so they may help create a more positive and memorable visitor experience.

Upon completion of the program curriculum, participants receive a nationally recognized certification designation. While focused on the hospitality community, any interested Greater Lansing resident may enroll. The cost for the course is \$20 per person, with group rates available. lansing.org/cta

F&B NEWS»

New Owner, Menu at Rochester Tap Room

Rochester Tap Room has transitioned to sole ownership by long-time Rochester resident Missy Markevics.

Markevics has launched a new menu to emphasize locally sourced products and items, including Knapps Donuts, used for the restaurant's bread pudding; a monthly rotating



cheesecake selection from Dessert Oasis; and cheese boards from downtown Rochester's Cheese Lady.

Rochester Tap Room's large open floor plan and second floor are available for meetings and events. It also offers a full catering menu as well as 60-plus beers on tap. *rochestertap.com*