



SMG's Richard MacKeigan named Hall of Headlines Award winner by Venues Today magazine

Van Andel Arena ranked #4 North American venue on Top Stops List for 2016

Grand Rapids—*Venues Today* magazine presented its “most prestigious award,” the **Hall of Headlines**, this month with **Richard MacKeigan** [receiving the honor in the Bookings category](#).

MacKeigan, Regional General Manager for SMG at [Van Andel Arena](#) and [DeVos Place](#), was nominated for bookings for breaking multiple venue records including Garth Brooks' record for most tickets sold for a single engagement and Paul McCartney's record for gross ticket sales for a single event, in addition to Kanye West bringing in one of the largest productions the venue has ever seen.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Van Andel Arena has seen one of the biggest years in its history in 2016, hosting over 30 concerts which is its highest number in 18 years.

“This says a lot about our community. We've had an incredible year with some big shows, but they were only as big as they were because of support from our community in West Michigan,” said MacKeigan. “That paired with ongoing confidence from the Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention/Arena Authority has laid the foundation and provided proof that this community can support some of the biggest events. We are all very excited to continue building on that momentum.”

Including MacKeigan, SMG had a record 14 nominees for this year's Hall of Headlines, including four from Grand Rapids. **Hilarie Szarowicz**, (Director of Marketing at Van Andel Arena and DeVos Place), **Jeff Dubin** (Director of Food & Beverage for SAVOR at Van Andel Arena), and **Eddie Tadlock** (Assistant General Manager at DeVos Place) were nominated this year as well.

Convention Arena Authority

Steve Heacock
Chairman

Hon. Rosalynn Bliss

Lew Chamberlain

Birgit M. Klohs

Charlie Secchia

Floyd Wilson, Jr.

Richard A. Winn

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Among the other nominees from SMG, Meghan Doyle (Director of Marketing at the BOK Centre in Tulsa, OK) and Mark Anderson (General Manager and Vice President of Premier Food Services in Del Mar, CA) were named winners of the Hall of Headlines in the Marketing and Concessions categories respectively.

Van Andel Arena makes Top Stops list for 2016

Van Andel Arena was recognized elsewhere in *Venues Today's* latest edition as well. The magazine included its final Top Stops list for 2016 and the arena showed up at #4 in North America and #11 worldwide for venues with a capacity of 10,001-15,000. The list ranks the top 20 venues in size categories by total gross sales between October 16, 2015 and October 15, 2016. In addition to Van Andel Arena, seven other SMG venues were also named to the Top Stops list in the 10,001-15,000 category. They are Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, MD, König Pilsener Arena in Oberhausen, Germany, Save Mart Center in Fresno, CA, Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena in Jacksonville, FL, Intrust Bank Arena in Wichita, KS, Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls, SD, and DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

About SMG

SMG has managed DeVos Place since 1994 and Van Andel Arena since 1996. Founded in 1977, SMG provides management services to more than 240 public assembly facilities including convention and exhibition centers, arenas, stadiums, theatres, performing arts centers, equestrian facilities, science centers and a variety of other venues. With facilities across the globe, SMG manages more than 14.4 million square feet of exhibition space and over 1.75 million sports and entertainment seats. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides venue management, sales, marketing, event booking and programming, construction and design consulting, and pre-opening services for such landmark facilities as McCormick Place & Soldier Field in Chicago, Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, Houston's NRG Park and the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through its concessions, catering and special events division, SAVOR, currently servicing more than 130 accounts worldwide. For more information, visit smgworld.com.

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