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Experience Grand Rapids Director of Sales Recognized as a "15 Over 50" by Connect

National award recognizes event professionals who have contributed in multiple ways to the industry

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.** — Mary Manier, Director of Sales at Experience Grand Rapids (EXGR), the area's official destination marketing organization, was selected as one of Connect Association's inaugural "15 Over 50". This honor recognizes event professionals who have spent their career moving the meetings industry forward. Connect Association is a national magazine that provides resources and ideas to professionals and planners in the meetings and events industry.

"It's an incredible honor to be named one of the '15 Over 50' by Connect," said Manier. "This recognition is especially exciting because Connect is a thought leader and trusted resource in the meetings industry."

Manier's focus at EXGR is to bring conventions and meetings to Kent County and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mary graduated from Davenport University with a degree in Hospitality and since then has accumulated over 30 years of tourism experience.

As the Director of Sales at Experience Grand Rapids, Mary plays a key role in assisting the EXGR sales and events team. Not only does she help develop ideas internally, she also has furthered her knowledge and assisted others in the industry. She has been involved with Convention Sales Professionals International for three years and attended professional development sessions at PCMA, DI, ASAE and IMEX. She has also developed a network of DMO director of sales to discuss ideas and changes in the industry.

Honorees will be recognized at Connect's annual conference August 26-28, 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky.

## **About Experience Grand Rapids**

Established in 1927, Experience Grand Rapids (EXGR), the areas' official destination marketing organization, strengthens the region's economic vitality and quality of life by marketing Grand Rapids/Kent County as a preferred visitor destination.

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