2016

IFEA World Festival & Event City Award Recipients

“Recognizing the best in community leadership and festival and event partnerships around the world.”
The International Festivals & Events Association announced and recognized the 2016 recipients of the "IFEA World Festival & Event City" award during the 61st Annual IFEA Convention, Expo & Retreat in Tucson, Arizona, United States on September 27, 2016. The IFEA would like to congratulate all of our 2016 IFEA World Festival & Event City Award Recipients.

Coffs Harbour
New South Wales, Australia
The Coffs Coast is home to iconic coastal landscapes, stunning rainforest hinterlands and vibrant communities. It is the beating heart of the Mid North Coast of NSW. A varied and significant events program caters to the diverse needs, passions and interests of both locals and visitors, and its growing reputation as Australia’s leading regional events destination.

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Dubai, United Arab Emirates
From a port city of pearl divers and traders to a modern-day global hub, Dubai has come a long way while staying true to its Arabian roots. The sparkling lights of its skyscrapers, the vibrant buzz of its urban landscape, a sweeping events calendar and the sun-soaked shores are representative of a city that is forward-thinking but firmly rooted in the Emirati culture and ambitions of its founders. Dubai is a city that hosts world-class sporting events and entertainment as well as family and cultural events that have become benchmarks around the globe. By designing events and festivals that are inclusive, culturally-vibrant and inspirational, Dubai continues to show the world what innovation, dreams and ambition can accomplish.

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Krakow, Poland
Krakow is a vibrant center of creativity and innovation that is fueled by centuries worth of knowledge, heritage and culture and the modern entrepreneurial spirit of the local artists who produce and invigorate brilliant experimentation, participation, collaboration and creation of new, exciting, and world-changing art, research, technology, scholarship and business. Its core values of sustainable development and socio-economic responsibility, freedom of speech and creative expression, fair and equal access, and the right to create, participate and engage make Krakow one of the most attractive cities for artists and cultural managers, students and families, businesses and the third sector. A leader in Poland and Central Europe the Festival City of Krakow is one of the most interdisciplinary and most dynamic hubs for the development of the cultural and creative sectors, characterized by openness to the world, imagination and support for future talents, forward-thinking vision, and immense expertise that sustain the City’s competitiveness and magnetic qualities.

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Newcastle
New South Wales, Australia
Nestled in the heart of the Hunter Region and only 2 hours drive north of Sydney, is the seaside city of Newcastle. Newcastle is a lively coastal town boasting a spectacular coastline, cosmopolitan cafes, award-winning restaurants, harbourside bars, a vibrant arts scene and boutique shopping precincts. In recent years Newcastle has undergone a renaissance from steel city to a city that is world class, full of life and always changing. In 2011 Newcastle was named a top ten city in the world in Lonely Planet’s ‘Best in Travel’ guide, and in 2012, 2014 and 2015 was a recipient of an International Festival and Events Association award for cities under one million population. It continues to flourish as a city with internationally recognised events, industry and education. This was demonstrated when, in January 2015, Newcastle played host to one of the most anticipated sporting events in the world, the AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015. Newcastle is committed to providing world class event experiences for organisers, participants and event goers, through its strong community spirit and ‘can do’ attitude.

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Greater Palm Springs
California, United States
Greater Palm Springs is a place of extraordinary beauty and natural wonder. Festivals and events celebrate the natural splendor of the area, the bounty of agriculture and cuisine, the local architecture and design, the cultural diversity and history, sporting and athletic excellence, and the arts in all forms and constructs. All of these elements promote and build upon the positive image of Greater Palm Springs.

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Philadelphia
Pennsylvania, United States
Famous as the birthplace of American Independence, the City of Philadelphia offers much more than cobblestone streets and historical landmarks. Cultural, culinary, artistic and ethnic treasures all weave together to create the beautiful fabric that is Philadelphia and its surrounding countryside. Philadelphia is a city of amazing diversity and contrast. By day, explore four centuries of history and architecture, beautiful parks, charming neighborhoods and remarkable museum collections. After the sun sets, the city heats up with a vibrant performing arts community, adventurous fine dining and special events of every conceivable genre, size and scope. All this and more attracts more than 39 million visitors to the Philadelphia region each year, sustaining more than 90,000 jobs in the hospitality sector and generating approximately $10 billion in annual economic activity. After hosting the 2015 World Meeting of Families Congress, 2015 was the largest visitor population on record for the City of Philadelphia. There is no doubt that Philadelphia has arrived on the world stage as an international destination and a first-class city.

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Sydney
New South Wales, Australia
Sydney is Australia’s event capital; a city that leads the nation in attracting and cultivating major new events – and it delivers them with great creative and technical brilliance. This city understands the transformative power of events and festivals and values the positive contribution they make to the community.

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Taupō
Waikato Region, New Zealand
A majestic volcanic landscape, lush green forests and the largest lake in the southern hemisphere define the remarkable region of Great Lakes Taupō. The stunning natural environment and huge range of adventure and outdoor activities on offer make Great Lake Taupō one of the most popular travel destinations in New Zealand. Great Lake Taupō is a relaxing and invigorating place to visit. Lakefront hotels, apartments and restaurants provide sweeping views across the water to the volcanic peaks of Tongariro National Park, and are a great vantage point for watching watersport activity on the lake. This region, known as Nature’s Ultimate playground, is the ultimate holiday destination with endless opportunity for sightseeing, photography and outdoor activities that will create memories to last a lifetime.

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