



2017

**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 2017 recipients of the "IFEA World Festival & Event City" award during the 62nd Annual IFEA Convention, Expo & Retreat in Tucson, Arizona, United States on September 14, 2017. The IFEA would like to congratulate all of our 2017 IFEA World Festival & Event City Award Recipients.

Coffs Harbour New South Wales, Australia

The City of Coffs Harbour is a major regional city on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, midway between Sydney and Brisbane. It is the principal city of the tourism destination known as Coffs Coast, which also includes the delightful seaside and hinterland communities of Bellingen, Sawtell, Coramba and Woolgoolga. Highly valued as a place to live and a popular holiday destination, Coffs Harbour continues to attract people seeking a lifestyle change or place to enjoy a diverse and expanding range of festivals and special events.

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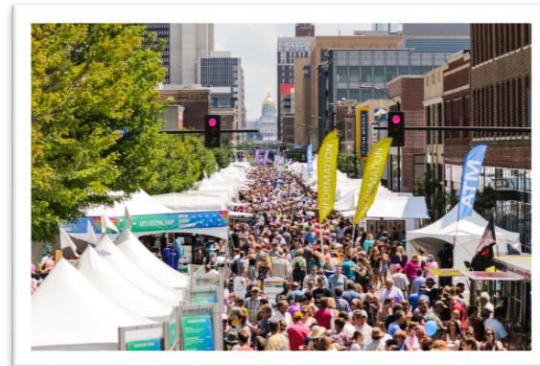


Des Moines, Iowa, United States

As Iowa's capital city, Des Moines is a hub of government action, business activity and cultural affairs. Des Moines is a city where you can catch a Broadway show and spend Saturday morning at the [Downtown Farmers' Market](#). It is a city offering an extraordinary experience at [locally-owned restaurants](#) and [live music](#) venues. Explore hundreds of festivals, [public art](#), endless [trails](#) and [family-friendly attractions](#). Catch a city where [affordability](#) and easy meet fun and unique. With a Metro population of 456,000, Des Moines is a bustling metropolis home of over 50 national and international insurance and finance companies. Our community offers quality schools, superb public services, and friendly neighborhoods. Truly the best of all worlds.

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Gold Coast

Queensland, Australia

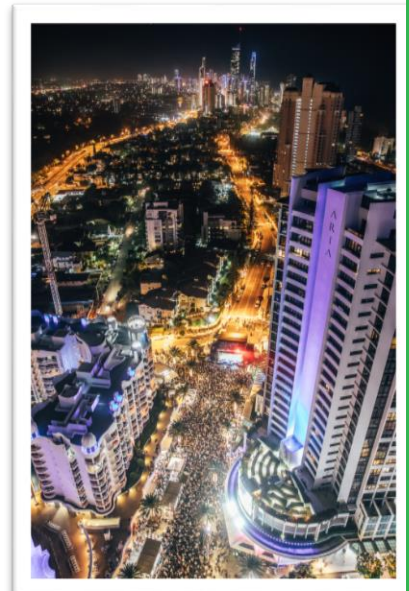
Australia's Gold Coast is a city coming of age. Situated in the south east corner of the state of Queensland, the Gold Coast stretches along 57 kilometres of coastline and is home to more than half a million people. Beyond the city's beautiful beaches are vast, sub-tropical rainforests with breathtaking scenery.

The Gold Coast is perfectly positioned as a destination for business, investment, study, sport, events, tourism and lifestyle. The Gold Coast has developed into a diverse, cosmopolitan, forward-thinking city with a future full of promise.

As host city of the Commonwealth Games in 2018, the Gold Coast is embracing transformative civic projects like never before, with more than \$13.5 billion in major infrastructure projects planned or underway set to change the face of our city in a way that is distinctly our own and position the Gold Coast as a global events destination.

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Hadong-gun

Gyeongsangnam-do, South Korea

Hadong includes Jirisan National Park, the Seomjin River and Hallyeosudo and is the first place in Korea where green tea was planted. The area is rich in unique foods, agriculture and indigenous products during four seasons including wild tea, Daebong persimmon, plum, strawberries, chestnut, corbiculae, green tea and Yellow Mullet. Three small but competitive festivals represent the Hadong region including the Hadong Tea Festival, the Bukcheon Cosmos and Buckwheat Festival and Alps in Korea Seomjin River Marsh Clam Festival.

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New Taipei City

Taiwan

Situated in the northern part of Taiwan, New Taipei City wholeheartedly integrates religious, cultural, sporting, and other events that display Taiwanese artistry and innovation. The picturesque natural landscape makes New Taipei City abundant in tourism resource. The famous natural parks, hot springs and the Northeast Coast known for its beautiful mountain and ocean view have attracted numerous tourists and taken their breath away. Highly valued as a multicultural society, the city continues embracing traditional as well as foreign festivals and showcasing its passions for innovation and preservation.

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Philadelphia Pennsylvania, United States

The City of Philadelphia, the birthplace of the nation and home to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, is synonymous with freedom. In Philadelphia, people of all colors, religions, races and creeds are invited and encouraged to express their beliefs, cultures and passions in a manner that reflects the truest meaning of the word “free”. Philadelphia is the sixth largest City in the United States, but somehow manages to maintain a welcoming, small town feel inside each of its signature neighborhoods. The diversity of Philadelphia’s communities is represented proudly through more than 1,400 local and citywide special events, festivals, parades and conventions.



If your passion is in the arts, Philadelphia has you covered with over 4,000 public art installations, museums and cultural institutions clustered along the Avenue of the Arts, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the Historic District and Old City. The Fairmount Park System, the largest, landscaped urban park system in the world, provides 9,200 acres of natural beauty and public green space for recreation, exercise and celebrations.

As nearly 42 million visitors discovered in 2016, the future looks bright in Philadelphia. We hosted Pope Francis and the Democratic National Convention. We hosted 250,000 fans during the NFL Draft. Hotels and restaurants are flourishing, and people are taking notice. The City of Philadelphia is ready for the next big thing, and we can’t wait to make it happen.

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Port Macquarie Region New South Wales, Australia

Port Macquarie is perfectly located on Australia’s east coast, halfway between Sydney and Brisbane. This vibrant region is home to 80,000 people, and is one of the fastest growing regional areas in the country. Over the past 12 months, Port Macquarie Hastings Council (together with the community) has supported more than 130 cultural, arts, music, food, wine and sporting events. Boasting 17 gorgeous beaches, a lush hinterland, fabulous accommodation, unique venues, and one of the best climates in the Southern Hemisphere, it’s no wonder Port Macquarie is such a popular holiday and events destination. To find out more, visit www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au, and www.portmacquarieinfo.com.



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Sydney

New South Wales, Australia

Sydney is a city that channels its extraverted creative energy into expressive events that engage the nation and the world. Its beautiful natural environment, welcoming spirit and exuberant joy in celebration have always set Sydney apart as an event destination; now too Sydney's thriving creative industries are adding a layer of technological brilliance to its event delivery while construction of transformative new event infrastructure is ensuring a future in which Sydney will continue to excel.

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Tucson

Arizona, United States

Tucson, population 530,706 (pop. 1,016,206 in its MSA) is the second-largest city in Arizona, located in the southeast part of the state, in Pima County, 65 miles north of the Mexican border. Surrounded by five mountain ranges—"sky islands" rising above the Sonoran Desert valley—Tucson is the longest continuously inhabited site in the U.S, and was part of Spain and Mexico before joining the United States. Its culture reflects these roots. Home to the University of Arizona, a premier research university ranked high nationally in many fields of study, Tucson is an incubator to growing high-technology industries in the fields of biosciences, defense, aerospace, and mining equipment. Blessed by virtually endless sunny days, Tucson is a year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts, nature-lovers, and competitive athletes. Tucson has been investing in its transportation infrastructure, including a regional multi-use recreational path (The Loop) and a streetcar circulator connecting business districts and the university campus in the central city area. Investment in the downtown area has been significant in recent years and is gathering momentum with the development of new housing, hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

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