METROPOLITAN PIER AND EXPOSITION AUTHORITY (MPEA)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION
(CHICAGO, IL)

ABOUT CHICAGO, IL

As a multicultural city that thrives on the harmony and diversity of its neighborhoods, Chicago today embodies the values of America's heartland-integrity, hard work and community and reflects the ideals in the social fabric of its 77 distinct neighborhoods.

With its central location and signature skyline, Chicago is a sought after international destination for business and entertainment complete with world-class restaurants, shopping, a vibrant arts and theater district and more than 35,000 hotels in the Central Business District.

Chicago offers a truly unique mix of global attractions and local charm. It is a city that is bustling with activities all season – ice skating in Millennium Park, sightseeing through Lincoln Park Zoo, exploring Navy Pier, shopping along the Magnificent Mile. For more action, hit up a game (pro teams like the Bulls, Blackhawks and Bears are in full swing).

Chicago is a leader in reforming public schools, enhancing public safety and security initiatives, providing affordable housing in attractive and economically sound communities, ensuring accessibility for all and fostering, social, economic and environmental sustainability.

- CHICAGO HISTORY
- CHICAGO FACTS AND STATISTICS
- CHICAGO ATTRACTIONS (YOU WILL BE REDIRECTED TO WWW.CHOOSENCHICAGO.COM)
There are a million places to visit and things to do in Chicago. Seriously, a million, so how do you choose between all of Chicago’s top restaurants, nightlife, shopping and world-renowned museums. Explore the depths of the ocean at the Shedd Aquarium. Take in a show at The Chicago Theatre. Ride the Ferris wheel at Navy Pier. Stroll down The Magnificent Mile, Chicago’s premier shopping destination, from luxury boutiques to brand name retail stores. Become a fan at any one of Chicago’s 13 professional and collegiate sports teams. From the Cubs to the Bears to the Bulls, you’ll find yourself cheering for a win.

Chicago boasts some of the best cuisine, attractions and entertainment in the U.S., including several of the top 100 restaurants in the country, the tallest building in the US, and one of the best orchestras in the world, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

From shopping and sports enthusiasts to thrill seekers and foodies, Chicago has something for everyone.

**ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN PIER AND EXPOSITION AUTHORITY**

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) is a municipal corporation created by the Illinois General Assembly. Its Board of Directors is appointed by the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago. Its mission is to attract trade shows, conventions, meetings, expositions and public events to the City of Chicago, and in the process, strengthen the economy of the area.

The MPEA owns two world-class facilities. Located along Chicago’s lakefront, McCormick Place, the largest convention center in North America offers 2.6 million square feet of exhibition space, 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world. Historic Navy Pier is also the top-visited tourist and leisure destination in the Midwest. Navy Pier features 50 acres of park areas, gardens, restaurants, retail shops, cruise and charter boat docking, amusement park rides, a Ferris wheel, museums and a convention and meetings facility.

The Authority also owns the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, a recently renovated and expanded 1262-room hotel and conference center located adjacent to McCormick Place. The Hyatt Corporation is responsible for the operation and management of this Hotel under a management agreement with the Authority.

The MPEA plans to expand the existing McCormick Place campus by constructing an additional 1200-room full-service Headquarters hotel and a 10,000-seat event center, both designed to be attached via walkways to its convention center. MPEA has selected Marriott Marquis as the hotel operator who will manage this hotel under a separate management agreement with the Authority.

**MPEA Board of Directors**

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority's 9-member Board is appointed by the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago. These individuals lead MPEA in its mission to attract trade shows, conventions and public events to Chicago, in an ongoing effort to strengthen the state and city economies. The Chairman is selected by the MPEA Board.
MPEA History - McCormick Place and Navy Pier have diverse and fascinating histories

**McCormick Place** is North America’s premier convention facility. The McCormick Place campus comprises four state-of-the-art buildings, the South, West, North buildings and the Lakeside Center. These buildings have a combined total of more than 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, and over 600,000 square feet of meeting rooms, making it the nation’s largest convention center. McCormick Place® hosts approximately 125 -150 events annually and attracts close to three million trade and public show visitors annually. McCormick Place® features the Arie Crown® Theater, a renovated proscenium arch theatre which seats approximately 4,249. Two separate buildings, the Energy Center and the Corporate Center, are also part of the convention center campus.

In 2011, MPEA selected SMG, a recognized world leader in convention center management to run the daily operations of McCormick Place. The selection of a private management firm was a key component of the historic reforms enacted by the Illinois General Assembly in 2010 to streamline operations and lower costs for McCormick Place customers.

Historic **Navy Pier**, the Midwest's #1 tourist and leisure destination that attracts nearly 9-million visitors a year, is also owned by the Authority. Navy Pier is now governed by an independent not-for-profit organization known as Navy Pier, Inc. (“NPI”) pursuant to a long term lease agreement with the Authority. The iconic Navy Pier is being reimagined into a bolder, greener, more contemporary urban space in time for its 100th anniversary in 2016.

*Click here for information regarding Colonel Robert R. McCormick, McCormick Place and Navy Pier.*

**Business Diversity Department**

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority is committed to the inclusion of minorities and women in our overall procurement and contracting processes. As such, we have established a Business Diversity Department to oversee our affirmative action programs.

The Business Diversity Department is responsible for managing the Authority's Business Diversity Program. MPEA is committed to providing equal access to potential business opportunities to minority and women-owned businesses. It is our goal to ensure the utilization of minority and women-owned businesses to the maximum extent possible. The Business Diversity Department is an integral part of our procurement process. Our facilities are located within a diverse community and we seek to ensure that our vendor pool and workforce reflect the environment in which we operate.

**Business Diversity**

The Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority (MPEA) encourages minority and women-owned businesses to participate in our procurement process. MPEA is committed to including a diverse pool of vendors in our supplier base. We have participation goals of twenty-five percent for minority-owned businesses (MBE) and five percent for women-owned businesses (WBE).
Workforce Diversity

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority is an equal opportunity employer. We strive to maintain a workforce that is as diverse as the community in which we operate. Our business strategy incorporates our philosophy of inclusion and our commitment to our most precious resources – our human resources. MPEA is a customer centered and service-oriented organization that strives to provide our clients, contractors and visitors with the best possible experience at every opportunity. Diversity and inclusion are core principles at the center of our efforts.

Public Art Collection

In its role as owner of McCormick Place, MPEA is proud to provide the city of Chicago with one of the largest public art collections in Illinois. MPEA believes that public buildings should be more than just functional and made these acquisitions to inspire visitors as they pass through the hallways of its facilities.

All of the paintings and sculptures that you will see at McCormick Place enhance the buildings' architecture and complement the dazzling views of the city and Lake Michigan. Next time you're in the South Building or West Building of McCormick Place, take a good look around and you'll discover some hidden gems.

To learn more about The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, please visit their official website:
www.mpea.com
POSITION SUMMARY

The CEO is responsible for the overall customer experience, administration, management, planning, coordinating, and directing the development, operation, maintenance and continued vision of MPEA.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING)

- The CEO of the Authority shall be responsible for the management of the properties, business and employees of the authority. This includes providing direction and oversight for outsourced operations for the convention center and MPEA-owned hotel.
- The CEO shall direct the enforcement of all ordinances, including the 70ILCS210/MPEA Act, resolutions, rules and regulations of the Board, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.
- Administer and carry out policies as determined by the Board while also maintaining positive relationships with all stakeholders including the surrounding local and state governments, unions, tenants and the public.
- Develop strategy, overall direction, coordination, budgeting and evaluation of assigned divisions.
- Responds to the needs of the Board of Directors and to outside business and tourism organizations.
- Provide astute fiscal management and leadership while ensuring that sound fiscal practices are in accordance with applicable laws and policies.
- Provide or coordinate for timely and effective response to directives and requests from internal and external organizations, agencies, departments, media inquiries and individuals to maintain the integrity of the Authority.

IDEAL BACKGROUND

- Sitting CEO, president, COO, general manager of a similar size or larger organization in the for-profit or not-for-profit sectors.
- Demonstrated expertise working with elected officials from multiple jurisdictions and with union leadership to accomplish business objectives.
- A college degree from an accredited four year college or university with an MBA or other graduate degree strongly preferred or acceptable equivalent.
- Real estate development and/or asset management experience preferred.
- A minimum of 7 to 10 years experience at the executive level and 15 to 20 years overall experience.
- Broad consumer experience in sales and marketing driven cultures.
- Volunteer or direct experience with boards of not-for-profit, membership organizations that utilize public funds.
- Knowledge of the meetings, exhibition and events industry, its distribution channels, its customer base and the key channels that drive the business is a plus.
- Possess solid personnel management and labor relations skills, including a record of sensitivity to all employees, collectively and individually.

IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS

- High integrity with a strong moral compass
- An effective consensus builder
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Politically savvy
- Strong problem-solving skills
- An individual with broad business vision and the ability to lead the organization in developing and executing a strategic plan.
- A team leader who works well in a collegial management environment but is equally comfortable in a more competitive corporate environment.
• An individual with a high likeability factor who is charismatic, confident and humble.
• A leader with exceptional problem solving skills who is a quick study and possesses a desire and willingness to learn.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FIRST 6-12 MONTHS

1) Immediately engage in the current projects under development to ensure a smooth transition in order to maintain the momentum.
2) Begin to develop strong and meaningful relationships with all stakeholders/constituents and maintain effective on-going communication. Constituents include but are not limited to customers, staff, board, industry leaders, business leaders, city, county and state elected officials, union leadership, other partners and vendors.
3) Develop strong working knowledge of the budget and finances including all revenue sources and top customers.
If you are interested in this position, please respond via e-mail with cover letter, resume, and compensation information to the following SearchWide™ Executive:

Mark Gnatovic, Senior Vice President, SearchWide™
Email: gnatovic@searchwide.com or Phone: 817-251-9118
www.searchwide.com