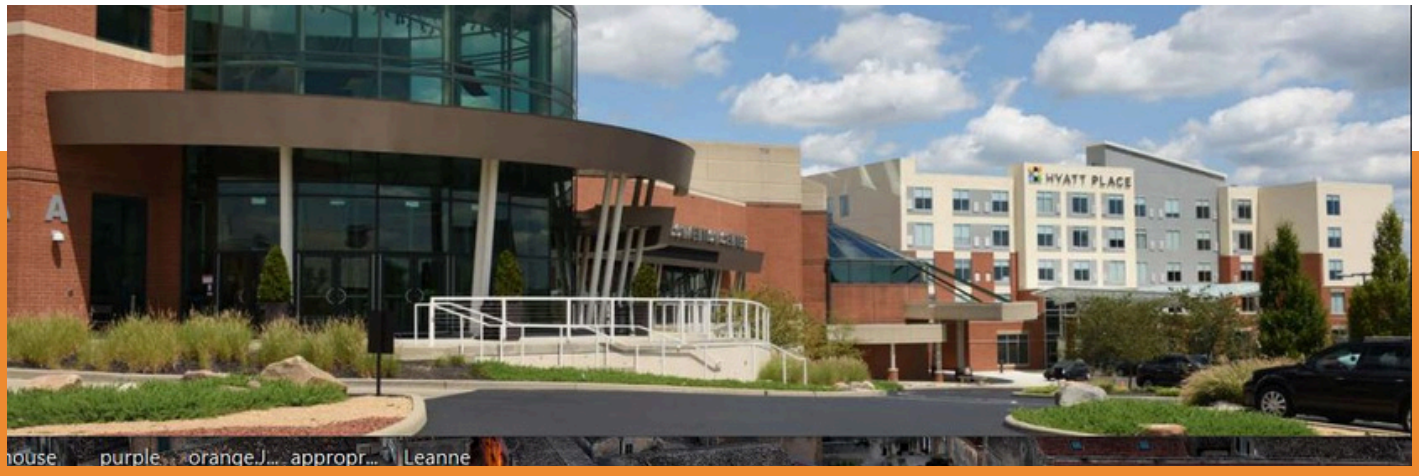
Sharonville
CONVENTION CENTER

Greater Cincinnati s only
LEED Certified Event Facility

Media

Press Releases & Articles



EDITORIAL BACKGROUNDER
For Use asNeeded

Contact: Joe Shields
513-403-7222
joe@rokconsulting.net

Sharonville Convention Center: The Latest News

The success of the 2024 expansion.

The success of the 2024 expansion has surpassed the Center's expectations. It is better able to satisfy the current and future demands of the convention and event industry. Before the expansion there was a 20,000 square foot gap in Hamilton County. Those events that needed more space than the Center offered but less space than the urban core's Duke Energy Convention Center would have had to locate somewhere outside of Hamilton County.

Importanceofthe venue in lightoftherenovationsoftheDuke Energy Convention Center.

One of the expansion's goals was to help keep meeting and convention business in Hamilton County during the renovation of the Duke Energy Convention Center. Todd Portune Hall – a key part of the expansion and, at 40,000 square feet, the largest flexible space in the county during the Duke renovation – allows the Center to accommodate many of the very important annual community events like Urban League, The Cure Starts Now, NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, American Heart Association Heart Ball, Comic Expo and Holiday Market to name just a few, that would have been lost during that renovation.

Increased revenue.

From a revenue standpoint, in its first full year of operation with the expansion (2024), the Center was up a whopping 39% in 2024 as compared to 2023 ($4.3 million). The 2025 revenue is currently tracking and forecasted to be $6.5 million. But revenue is only one measure of success. The expansion was also designed to grow business for the Center's hospitality partners (hotels, restaurants etc.). Pre-expansion, the Center's annual economic impact from direct and indirect spending was approximately $15 million. Post-expansion, annual indirect and direct spending is forecasted at $29 million.

A significant change in the Center's business model.

In all, the Center hosted 188 events in 2024. While that is only about half the number hosted in 2016, both the size of the events and the revenue from them are up. That signals a significant change in the Center's business model. In 2016, the Center hosted 382 total events with gross revenues of approximately $4 million.

Biggereventsthat fill multipledates.

The increased capacity that came from the expansion has allowed the Center to pursue bigger events that fill multiple dates. This in turn is driving traffic to the Sharonville hotels and attractions, like the new brewery. And those events are increasingly regional in nature, with attendees coming from Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan as well as Ohio. Examples include the Blue Card Hazard Zone National Conference for First Responders, Ohio Magistrates and the Ohio City Managers Association, to name a few.

-MORE-

Sharonville Rising

TheCityof Sharonville is growing, too. Ground was broken recently on the city's 24th hotel, adding to the nearly 2,700 hotel rooms already available in the City's Northern Lights district, of which the Sharonville Convention Center is a key anchor. A new brewery has opened right across from the Center. The city also completed a $15 million streetscaping and infrastructure project. These projects, combined with other recent projects and the Center's expansion, makes Sharonville a stronger regional and national presence in the meeting, convention and tourism market. That means more revenue for the city and county, more jobs for our residents and stronger economic development.

# # #

EDITORIAL BACKGROUNDER
For Use asNeeded

Contact: Joe Shields
513-403-7222
joe@rokconsulting.net

Sharonville Convention Center: Fact Sheet

Location
The Sharonville Convention Center conveniently located just 15 miles north of downtown Cincinnati, just off I-75 and I-275.

Opening
The Center opened in 1994, and underwent major renovations in 2012 and 2024.

Ownership
The Center is owned and operated by the City of Sharonville.

Space
The Center comprises approximately 100,000 square feet of total event space in 19 flexible meeting rooms:

- 40,000 square foot Exhibit Hall, featuring a Show Office, Ticket Office and First Aid Room A
- beautiful 14,000 square foot Ballroom 8,200 square foot Junior Ballroom comprised of three
- rooms 7,400 square foot bank of meeting space divisible by 5 6,300 square foot bank of
- meeting space divisible by 4 3 additional break-out rooms
-
-

Food & Beverage
The Center has three separate opportunities for guests to eat and drink:

- Northern Lights Café, a first-in-class free-standing bar and restaurant.
- Aurora Marketplace, centered on the grab-and-go concept of fresh foods and beverages.
- On-site, executive chef-led kitchens for catering.

Amenities
The Center a variety of amenities to improve the guest experience:

- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Complimentary parking
- Electronic signage throughout the facility
- Wheelchair accessibility

Social medialinks

- Website: https://sharonvilleconventioncenter.com/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sharonvilleconventioncenter
- Twitter: https://x.com/CincySCC
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@SharonvilleConventionCenter

# # #

EDITORIAL BACKGROUNDER
For Use asNeeded

Contact: Joe Shields
513-403-7222
joe@rokconsulting.net

The Sharonville Convention Center Expansion

Expansiondetails
The Sharonville Convention Center expansion provides more space to attract and retain convention, meeting and tourism business for Sharonville and Hamilton County. The expansion also features new options and amenities and carries through the Center's well-earned reputation for excellence and attention to detail. The expansion features:

- The 40,000-square foot Todd Portune Hall, which will be the largest flexible space in the county
- during the renovation of the Duke Energy Convention Center.
- Northern Lights Café, a first-in-class free-standing bar and restaurant.
- Aurora Marketplace, centered on the grab-and-go concept of fresh foods and beverages.
- Three new entrances.
- More restrooms.
- Upgraded technology.
- Complimentary wi-fi.
  Additional box office capacity.

Cost andfunding
The $24 million expansion was funded jointly by the City of Sharonville and Hamilton County, continuing a strong, decades-long city-county partnership. The State of Ohio provided $600,000 in capital.

Return on investment
The investment is estimated to increase the Center's annual economic impact by $15 million and grow to approximately $27 million annually in the first five years.

Keeping business in the county
Prior to the expansion, the Center had to turn away business because of space restrictions. The expansion allows the Center to keep that business in the county, and to accommodate groups that would have been lost to the county during the Duke Energy Convention Center's two-year shutdown.

Another example of Sharonville's growth
In addition to the expansion, Sharonville has recently seen the opening of two new hotels and a new brewery – right across from the Center. The city also completed a $15 million streetscaping and infrastructure project.

# # #

EDITORIAL BACKGROUNDER
For Use asNeeded

Contact: Joe Shields
513-403-7222
joe@rokconsulting.net

The Sharonville Convention Center

The Sharonville Convention Center – the region's only certified sustainable event facility – is conveniently located just 15 miles north of downtown Cincinnati off I-75 and I-275. The Center provides a beautiful and contemporary relaxed suburban location for meetings, conventions, banquets, trade shows and public events, with all the amenities of a big city.

The Center originally opened in 1994 with 24,000 square feet of exhibition space. In 2012, a $35 million renovation modernized the space, boosting and upgrading amenities including kitchen facilities for catering and guest services.

In 2024, the Center underwent a major $24 million expansion that included the 40,000-square foot Todd Portune Hall, doubling the exhibit floors space. The expansion also included the Northern Lights Café and Aurora Marketplace food and beverage options, plus upgraded foyers and registration points.

Today, the Center's full convention floor spans 65,000 square feet with 19 flexible meeting rooms, including a 14,000-square foot ballroom, junior ballroom, and multiple divisible breakout spaces. Complimentary Wi-Fi, electronic signage, message boards, a projection wall, and ADA-accessible design make it tech-savvy and guest-friendly. Additional features include drive-in exhibit hall access and equipped loading docks. The Center also offers on-site, executive chef-led kitchens for catering.

# # #

EDITORIAL BACKGROUNDER
For Use asNeeded

Contact: Joe Shields
513-403-7222
joe@rokconsulting.net

The Sharonville Convention Center: Boilerplate

The Sharonville Convention Center is conveniently located just 15 miles north of downtown Cincinnati, just off I-75 and I-275. The Center offers 65,000 square feet event space with 19 flexible meeting rooms with more than 1,000 free on-site parking spaces. In addition to on-site, executive chef-led catering, the Center features the Northern Lights Café and Aurora Marketplace food and beverage options. Other amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, electronic signage, message boards, a projection wall, ADA-accessible design drive-in exhibit hall access and equipped loading docks. More information is available at sharonvilleconventioncenter.com.

# # #

CHANNEL 12 STORY

Unlock your best retirement at the 4th Annual Health & Retirement Expo on June 13

---

by WKRC

Mon, March 3rd 2025 at 12:39 PM

Updated Fri, June 6th 2025 at 2:09 PM

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Health and Retirement Expo, happening on Friday, June 13, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sharonville Convention Center. (© lordn - stock.adobe.com)

TOPICS:
Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Health and Retirement Expo, happening on Friday, June 13, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sharonville Convention Center.

Whether you're preparing for retirement or are already enjoying it, this event is your one-stop destination for everything related to health, finance, and lifestyle in your golden years.

Admission is free, so bring your friends and family along for a day of fun and valuable resources. Attendees will enjoy a variety of engaging activities, informative sessions, and the chance to connect with experts in a wide range of fields, including: Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Health and Retirement Expo, happening on Friday, June 13, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sharonville Convention Center. Health and Wellness: Get health screenings and learn about staying independent with a Q&A session from leading experts.

CHANNEL 12 STORY

Finance and Legal: Talk to financial advisors and legal professionals about making the most of your retirement plan and securing your future.
Caregiving and Retirement Communities: Explore your options for caregiving services and retirement living solutions.
Leisure and Recreation: Discover new hobbies and activities to make your retirement years more exciting and fulfilling.
Other exciting highlights include:

- Live Music and Dancing: Enjoy lively performances throughout the day
- Cooking Demonstrations: Get tips on healthy eating with live cooking sessions
- Meet and Greet with Local Celebrities: Take photos and chat with some of your favorite local personalities
- Giveaways and Prizes: Score free swag and exclusive prizes while you explore all the event has to offer

The event will be hosted by the talented Liz Bonis, who will guide you through an afternoon filled with opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate the next phase of life. To reserve a booth for your business,

Local 12 Health & Retirement Expo
Theme: Aging Well Together — Living Stronger, Smarter, and More Connected

emailhere .

Presented by Local 12 WKRC in partnership with leading experts in brain health, caregiving, financial planning, cancer care, nutrition, law, and senior services

This year's Health & Retirement Expo is more than just a day of information—it's a celebration of life's next chapter. Whether you're navigating retirement, caringfor a loved one, facing a health challenge, or preparing for the future, this event isdesigned to empower you with the tools, insights, and support to age well and live fully.

Why "Aging Well Together"?

Because no one should have to figure it out alone. These panels, cooking demos, and community resources bring together health, heart, and hope — helping you age with dignity, connection, and confidence, no matter where you are in the journey.

CHANNEL 9 STORY

New Cincy Boat Expo set to make waves at the Sharonville Convention Center
Watch the latest headlines from WCPO 9 Cincinnati any time.

By: Danielle Goodman
Posted 11:04 AM, Jan 10, 2025

CHANNEL 9 STORY

and last updated 12:35 PM, Jan 10, 2025

CINCINNATI — Boating enthusiasts in Greater Cincinnati will have a new event to look forward to this year as the first Cincy Boat Expo launches at the Sharonville Convention Center.

The event will run Feb. 8-9 and Feb. 12-16. It will feature more than 75 boats and exclusive deals aimed at kicking off the boating season.

The video player is currently playing an ad. You can skip the ad in 5 sec with a mouse or keyboard

Four of Greater Cincinnati's leading boat dealers have partnered up to bring the event to life. The dealers include Hern Marine, Lodder's Marine Sales, Sea Ray of Cincinnati and Taylor's South Shore Marina. The expo will showcase pontoons, deck boats, and bow riders from top brands like Sea Ray, Bennington, and Cobalt.

"With an incredible selection of boats and a new venue, this year's show has something for everyone in Greater Cincinnati, Dayton and the surrounding areas," said Ed Alf, president of Sea Ray of Cincinnati in a press release. "Visitors can explore a variety of models, connect with experts, and take advantage of show pricing, all in one convenient location." The 65,000-square-foot venue will also feature marine retail displays from local businesses, including Wake Cumberland Watersports and Haynes Fiberglass Boat Repair. Admission is $10, and children under 10 are free. Special promotional days include free admission for first responders and military members on Feb. 12 and a Valentine's Day "buy one, bring a date for free" special on Feb. 14. The new expo in Sharonville will help provide a space for boaters to meet before the long-running Cincinnati boat, sport and travel show returns next year. The Cincinnati boat, sport and travel show has happened for more than 66 years. For tickets and event details, visit CincyBoatExpo.com.

CHANNEL 9 STORY

'Grateful for how busy we have been' | Sharonville's convention center expansion boosting economy

Northern Lights district grows with 24th hotel groundbreaking

Photo by: Andrew Rowan/WCPO

Sharonville Convention Center

By: Andrew Rowan

Posted 6:10 PM, Jul 22, 2025

CHANNEL 9 STORY

SHARONVILLE, Ohio — Sharonville's Northern Lights district is experiencing significant economic growth with the groundbreaking of its 24th hotel, adding to the nearly 2,700 rooms already available in the area.

The new apartment-style brand "LivSmart" by Hilton broke ground this week. It’s a mid-scale, long-stay hotel brand appealing to guests who may be traveling for weeks or months at a time, according to the hotel.

"It's a natural fit for folks who are visiting the convention center. It also works great in that it serves our business community," said David McCandless, Economic Development Director for the City of Sharonville.

Watchhow theSharonville ConventionCenterhasexperiencedaneconomic renaissance since its recent expansion:

He mentioned that out-of-town employeesworking for extended periods of time at nearby business headquarters and officeswill have another accommodation option for longer-term stays.

"We've been working on this hotel for thepast two and a half, three years," said Larry Hatfield, principal owner of North ShoreDesign.

Northern Lights district grows with 24thhotel groundbreaking

Photo by: Andrew Rowan/WCPO

Sharonville Convention Center

CHANNEL 9 STORY

By: Andrew Rowan

Posted 6:10 PM, Jul 22, 2025

SHARONVILLE, Ohio — Sharonville's Northern Lights district is experiencing significant economic growth with the groundbreaking of its 24th hotel, adding to the nearly 2,700 rooms already available in the area.

The new apartment-style brand "LivSmart" by Hilton broke ground this week. It’s a mid-scale, long-stay hotel brand appealing to guests who may be traveling for weeks or months at a time, according to the hotel.

The video player is currently playing an ad. You can skip the ad in 5 sec with a mouse or keyboard

"It's a natural fit for folks who are visiting the convention center. It also works great in that it serves our business community," said David McCandless, Economic Development Director for the City of Sharonville.

Watch how the Sharonville ConventionCenter has experienced an economic renaissance since its recent expansion:

He mentioned that out-of-town employeesworking for extended periods of time at nearby business headquarters and officeswill have another accommodation option for longer-term stays.

"We've been working on this hotel for thepast two and a half, three years," said Larry Hatfield, principal owner of North ShoreDesign.

The hotel will join others surrounding theSharonville Convention Center along the I-75 corridor, an area that has seen remarkableeconomic development since the convention center opened nearly 30 years ago.

CHANNEL 9 STORY

Andrew Rowan/WCPO The future site of the LivSmart by Hilton hotel in Sharonville. The

Sharonville Convention Center itself recently completed renovations that opened in February 2024, doubling its exhibit hall space and adding unique amenities to enhance visitor experiences. The exhibit hall grew from 20,000 square feet to 40,000 square feet.

That created a
“niche” for Sharonville, as the downtown Duke Energy Convention Center’s smallest hall was 40,000 square feet, according to Jim Downton, executive director of the Sharonville Convention Center.

“We really wanted to improve that and elevate that experience and give our attendees a reason to stay here,” Downtown said, highlighting a new standout feature is the convention center's restaurant and bar.

CHANNEL 9 STORY

Andrew Rowan/WCPO

Jim Downton, Executive Director of the Sharonville Convention Center, inside the Northern Lights Bar and Grill.

The suburban convention center has been able to capitalize as the downtown Cincinnati Duke Energy Convention Center is closed for a $200 million renovation.

"We have been very grateful for how busy we have been," Downton said.

Sharonville originally projected the convention center's newly expanded exhibit hall would double its economic impact within five years.

Today, Downton said he believes they've nearly hit the mark in year two. (They will commission a follow-up study next year.)

CHANNEL 9 STORY

Andrew Rowan/WCPO

Sharonville Convention Center

"We all of a sudden had that footprint that they needed to host their event. So it worked really well," Downton said. “Last year, we only had three weekends available.”

The Sharonville Convention Center said they are looking to ensure their annual events are happy so they continue to come back every year.

“We’re trying to go out and get incremental events,” Downton said, noting many state associations will rotate between Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

Many first-time visitors to Sharonville’s convention center comment about the ease of parking.

The center offers 1,000 complimentary parking spots, a significant advantage over downtown venues.

Some events that relocated from downtown during the Duke Energy Convention Center's renovation may consider making Sharonville their permanent home, Downton said.

"We have several that are going to be returning, that we have signed some agreements for into the future," Downton said.

However, the comparison between the two is more like apples to oranges. (Both convention centers are promoted by Visit Cincy and are supported by tax revenue from hotels.)

FOX 19 STORY

Duke Energy Convention Center renovations may be done sooner than expected

“There have never been more eyeballs on the City of Cincinnati...”

By Mary LeBus

Published: Jan. 16, 2025 at 10:59 AMEST

CINCINNATI (WXIX) — The long-awaitedDuke Energy Convention Center project is expected to be completed a bit sooner thanthe original timeline.

Originally scheduled for January 2026, Cincinnati tourism officials say the state-of-the-art convention center could be completedbyDecember 2025.

The $240 million renovation project will include a major facelift to the entire building with modernized meeting spaces, technology,arooftop terrace and the new Elm Street Plaza. The project also calls for an 800-roomhotel that will sit adjacent to the convention center.

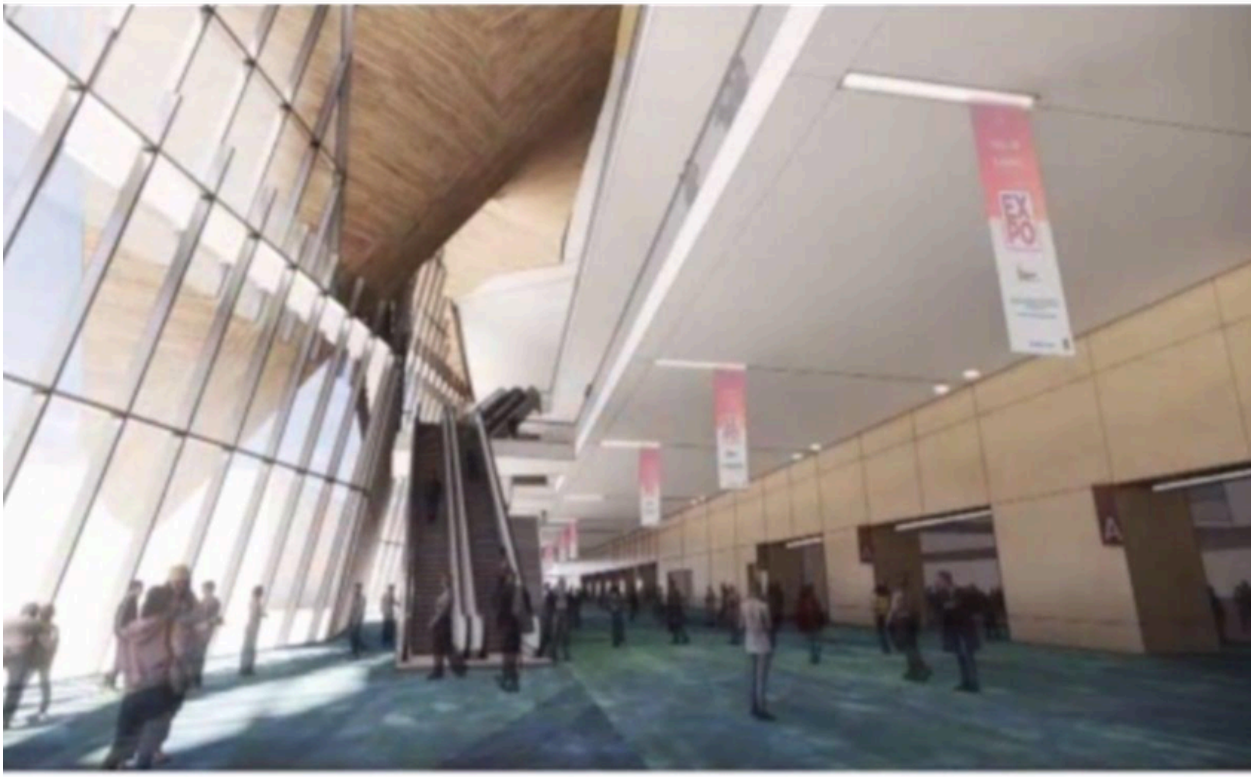
As construction continues downtown,majorevents normally held at the Duke Energy Convention Center moved to the newlyexpanded Sharonville Convention Center. The Wendy’s Bridal Show and the GreaterCincinnati Holiday Market are just a few of the larger events that moved north of thecity.

“The fortuitous part is the fact that whentheDuke Energy Center closed down, this was just reopening, and it provides 40,000newsquare feet of space to hold events that previously were held at the Duke EnergyConvention Center. So many of the conventions, certainly a lot of the communityevents that we held downtown, relocated up here in Sharonville,” said Visit CincyPresident and CEO Julie Calvert.

Autoplay

FOX 19 STORY

5TH ST STREET V



5TH ST CONCOURSE – LEVEL

FOX 19 STORY

FOX 19 STORY

Renderings of the proposed redesign and redevelopment of the Duke Energy Convention Center in Downtown Cincinnati.(City of Cincinnati/3CDC/Moody Nolan)

The Duke Energy Convention Center temporarily closing for 18 months surprisinglyhad its perks. Calvert explained that the temporary closing opened many peoples' eyestoa whole new convention district.

"Now people have choices and there's opportunity, and so, you know, that's all goodfor dollars in Hamilton County and all the businesses around this convention center aswe wait for the reopening of the Duke Energy Convention Center..." she explained.

As CEO of a tourism company, one of Calvert's primary jobs is to get people to visit Cincinnati.

Visit Cincy held its annual meeting Wednesday to discuss the economic impact tourism has had on the region.

According to a study by Tourism Economics, visitors spend $4.4 billion annually in Hamilton County. With Northern Kentucky added into that mix, it is about $6.5 billion annually.

The study also indicates that visitor spending in Hamilton County contributed to $229 million in local taxes.

FOX 19 STORY

“There have never been more eyeballs on the City of Cincinnati and what we’re doing here in terms of our venues, our partnerships, our tourism opportunities, and that’s really special for a community like Cincinnati.”

Several major events are coming to the Queen City in 2025 including America’s River Roots, a music and heritage festival that reminds Cincinnati of the popular Tall Stacks festival, the annual Reds Opening Day, the Cincinnati Music Festival and the Flying Pig Marathon.

“The momentum that this region is experiencing right now is absolutely unprecedented,” Calvert said. “From the new developments through the convention center districts - both downtown and here, in Sharonville - certainly the excitement around Sundance that’s coming, we talked about perhaps the specter of a new arena... there’s just so many developments that are happening that are creating the future of Cincinnati...” A new arena is still a contentious topic as some business owners are against it, while some stakeholders think it is necessary to put Cincinnati more on the map.

Additionally, a new Duke Energy Convention Center would be key for the 2027 Sundance Film Festival if Cincinnati is selected. The other finalists in the running include Boulder, Colorado and Salt Lake City/Park City, Utah. That decision will be made in the spring.

JOURNAL-NEWS ARTICLE

Cincy Boat Show at Sharonville Convention Center continues this week

Credit: Bill Doster

Presented by Hern Marine, Lodder's Marine Sales, Sea Ray of Cincinnati, and Taylor's South Shore Marina, Cincy Boat Expo takes place on Feb. 8-9 and Feb. 12-16 at the Sharonville Convention Center. Tickets are $10, and children ages 10 and under are free. Parking is free at the Sharonville Convention Center.

Lifestyles

By Ginny McCabe

Updated Feb 12, 2025

X

Four Greater Cincinnati boat dealers have joined forces to put on a boat show this winter in preparation for the upcoming boating season.

The Cincy Boat Expo will be at the Sharonville Convention Center, and it is presented by Hern Marine, Lodder's Marine Sales, Sea Ray of Cincinnati and Taylor's South Shore Marina.

"With an incredible selection of boats, a new venue and the year's best deals, the Cincy Boat Expo has something for everyone in Greater Cincinnati, Dayton and the surrounding areas — from seasoned boaters to those just starting their journey on the water," said Ed Alf, president of Sea Ray of Cincinnati.

JOURNAL-NEWS ARTICLE

“The boat show is a really important event for the local boat dealers, and we felt like we couldn’t just skip a year [due to the remodeling of the Duke Energy Center]. That would really impact our business and our sales, so we went out and secured the Sharonville Convention Center for two weekends in February,” Alf said.

The expo will feature three special promotional days. On Feb. 12, first responders and military members will receive free admission with valid ID. On Feb. 13, boat owners, who present a watercraft registration can get one guest in for free. And on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, attendees can buy one ticket and bring someone for free.

The family friendly event offers a unique opportunity to explore more than 75 boats, including pontoons, deck boats and bow riders, from more than a dozen brands such as Sea Ray, Harris, Barletta, Bennington, Sylvan, Four Winns, Regal and Cobalt. “Visitors can explore a range of brands and models all in one place, with the convenience of comparing options, engaging with dealership experts, and connecting with fellow boaters,” Alf said. He said the show will include boats for every lifestyle and budget, including family-friendly pontoons as well as sleek, stylish bow riders.

Attendees can also receive expert advice by engaging directly with dealers, while comparing a range of brands and models.

Additionally, there will be a Marine retail display to highlight more than a dozen area businesses, including Sick Speed Marine Electronics, Wake Cumberland Watersports, Aqua Supply Co., Four Seasons Marina, Haynes Fiberglass Boat Repair and Rogers Bros. Detailing, among others.

The show is expected to return to the Duke Energy Center in January 2026.

HOW TO GO

What: Cincy Boat Expo

When: Noon-8 p.m. Feb. 8; 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 9; noon-8 p.m. Wed. through Fri., Feb. 12-14; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Feb. 15; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 16

Where: Sharonville Convention Center

Cost: Tickets are $10; kids 10 and younger are free. Free parking

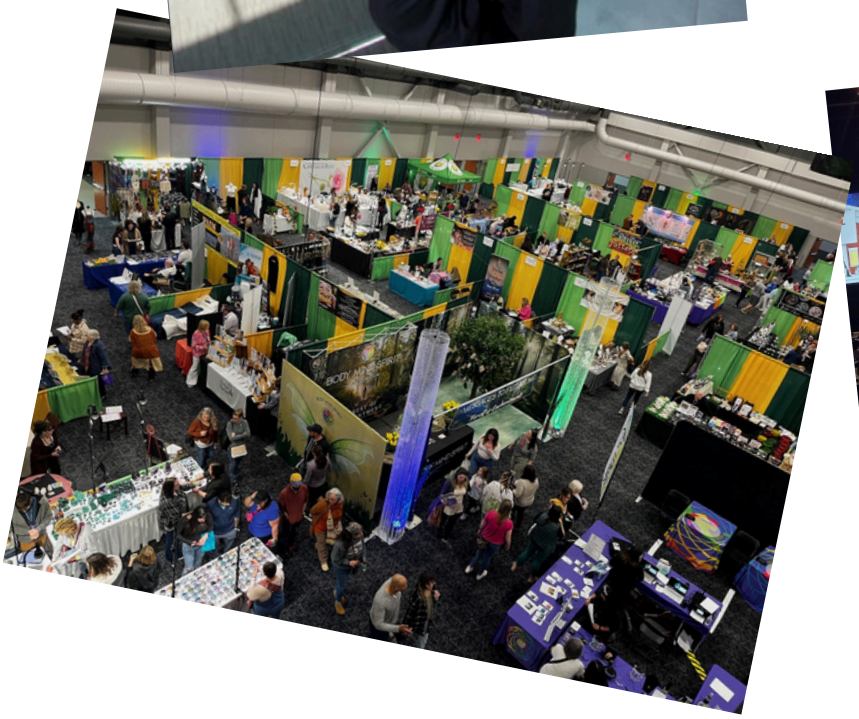
More info: CincyBoatExpo.com

HYATT PLACE

Distinction

BAR & GRILL

NORTHERN LIGHTS
BAR & GRILL



spca
ANIMAL HOUSE