



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JOHN A. DELANEY
MAYOR

CITY HALL SUITE 400
117 W. DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

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NEWS RELEASE

Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney today broke ground on the new Sports and Entertainment Arena. The new \$125 million facility is being constructed on nine acres of land just south of Duval Street and west of A. Phillip Randolph Blvd. It is expected to be dedicated in the summer of 2003. Funding for the project was provided by The Better Jacksonville Plan.

“We are now beginning construction on a facility that will attract first-rate entertainment acts and major sporting events,” said Mayor Delaney. “We will have a facility where families can go to enjoy ice shows, the best in concerts, arena football, hockey or basketball games.”

Mayor Delaney said the new arena will be a better experience for citizens. The new arena will seat up to 14,000 for hockey and arena football games, 15,000 for basketball games, and 14,000 to 16,000 for concerts. The seating in the new area includes 1,000 club seats, 28 suites, four party suites and a party deck. The total capacity of the new arena will be nearly double the capacity of the current coliseum.

“All this means a better day out for you and your family,” said Mayor Delaney. “We’ll have better site lines so every seat in the house is a good seat.” The new arena will also have ten ticket windows, three public concourses, five escalators and six elevators, all allowing the public easier access in and out.

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The new arena will also be a better experience for the athletes and performers. It will have five team locker rooms and four star dressing rooms. In addition, it will have 27,000 square feet of floor area, three levels of floor lighting, 120,000 pounds of overhead rigging capacity, a stagehand office and two road crew rooms.

The new arena will also be aesthetically pleasing from the outside. The new facility will feature red brick to tie in with St. Andrews Church and the new ballpark. The area will also include paved, landscaped and lighted walkways, giving patrons the added experience of a safe walk into and out of the venue.

The old coliseum, which was built in 1959, will be demolished in the spring of 2003 to make way for additional parking in the sports complex.

The Mayor said today that no decision had been made on the possible move of the Duval County Veterans Memorial Wall. The wall showcases the names of more than 1500 local military personnel who lost their lives while on active duty. The Mayor said he will continue to meet with veterans groups and the parents of war victims before making a final decision on whether to move the wall to a new location or keep it at its present site.

[Update](#)

The Program Manager for the arena is Gilbane/Scheer/Renaissance, a joint venture between a national construction management firm, a regional sports marketing firm and a local, minority design-build firm. The Architect/Engineer is HOK Sport, an international sports designer who has partnered with Bessent, Hammack & Ruckman (BH&R), a Jacksonville civil engineering firm. The Construction Manager is Turner/Perry-McCall/Northside, a joint venture between a national sports construction firm, a large local construction firm and a local minority partnership.

For more information, call Sharon Ashton at 630-7377.