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Boston ranked top U.S. destination for international meetings and events
Ranks ahead of Washington D.C., New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago in 2009 world-wide meetings market study

When it comes to hosting international associations in the United States, Boston took the top spot in 2009, according to an international meetings market and trend study conducted by The International Convention & Congress Association (ICCA).

According to the study, Boston hosted 35 association conventions that met criteria for the ranking, enough to put Boston ahead of its biggest U.S. competitors in the meetings and events industry, such as Washington D.C., New York City and Chicago. Boston also ranked eighth in the Latin and North America rankings, and is listed 44th in the world-wide ranking by cities.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil fill the top spots in the Latin and North American rankings, while Vienna, Barcelona and Paris took the top spots in the world rankings. The full report can be found at <http://www.iccaworld.com/dcps/doc.cfm?docid=994>.

“Boston’s international appeal plays an important role in the 21st century as we see more associations broadening their attendee base to incorporate their international audience,” said James E. Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA). “The ease of international travel to and from Boston’s Logan Airport, coupled with our city’s global influence in the educational, sciences and medical sectors make it a prime location for international events.”

While Rooney celebrates Boston’s No. 1 ranking in the U.S, he said he also sees opportunities for improving the city’s world-wide ranking. “But there are 43 cities ranked ahead of us, and as Boston moves forward with our Top 5 initiative, we plan to increase our ranking and become an even greater player in the world’s meeting and convention market.”

About the International Convention & Congress Association (ICCA)

The International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA) is one of the most prominent organizations in the world of international meetings. Founded in 1963, the ICCA is based in Amsterdam and has been collecting data on association events world-wide since 1972.

About the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA)

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. The MCCA is currently in the midst of its Top 5 campaign to launch Boston into the top five convention destinations in North America. For more information, go to www.t5boston.com.

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