



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Embracing Accessibility

The David L Lawrence Convention Center is the first KultureCity® Certified Sensory Inclusive Venue in Pennsylvania

PITTSBURGH – The David L Lawrence Convention Center (DLCC) has partnered with KultureCity® to make this location and all its programs and events Sensory Inclusive™. This new initiative will promote an accommodating and positive experience for all guests with a sensory issue, no matter their age or ability.

The certification process ensures that the staff at the DLCC are trained annually by leading medical professionals on how to recognize those guests with sensory needs and how to handle a sensory overload situation. KultureCity® Sensory Bags, equipped with noise-canceling headphones (provided by Puro Sound Labs), fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and KCVIP lanyards will be available to all guest at the DLCC who may feel overwhelmed by this new environment. A Quiet Room is available, which is a private room located on Level 2, Concourse A of our venue that can be accessed by connecting with our Security Staff. Headphone Zones are marked in areas of heightened noise potential in the venue.

Sensory sensitivities or challenges with sensory regulation are often experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD and other similar conditions. One of the major barriers for these individuals is sensitivity to over stimulation and noise, which can be a major part of the environment at a location like the DLCC. With its new certification, the David L Lawrence Convention Center is now better prepared to assist guests with sensory sensitivities in having the most comfortable and accommodating experience possible.

Prior to their visit, families and individuals can download the free KultureCity® App where one can view what sensory features are available and where they can access them including, Quiet Areas, where to get a KultureCity® Sensory Bag, where the Headphone Zones are etc. Also, on the App is the Social Story which will provide a customized visual preview of what to expect while enjoying a visit to DLCC.

The David L Lawrence Convention Center is honored to partner with KultureCity, ensuring a welcoming, safe, and positive environment for all those who visit, whether for a business meeting, tradeshow, or special event. We're proud to be the first KultureCity-certified Sensory Inclusive Convention Center in the state of Pennsylvania.

-Tim Muldoon, General Manager, David L Lawrence Convention Center

KultureCity® is a leading non-profit recognized nationwide for using its resources to revolutionize and effect change in the community for those with sensory needs, not just those with autism. Since the program's inception, KultureCity® has created over 1,000 Sensory Inclusive™ public and private services, organizations, events and venues in 6 countries: this includes special events such as the NFL Pro-Bowl, NFL Super Bowl, MLB World Series, and MLB All Star Weekend.

KultureCity® has won many awards for its efforts, including the NASCAR Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award in 2017 and the 2018 Clio Sports Silver for social good in partnership with Cleveland Cavaliers/Quicken Loans Arena. The Cleveland Cavaliers 'Quiet Space Sensory Room at Quicken Loans Arena was a finalist for the 2018 Stadium Business Award, KultureCity® was named one of the World's Most Innovative Companies for 2019 and 2020 by FastCompany and recently won the Industry Partner Award in TheStadiumBusiness Design & Development Awards 2019.

About the David L Lawrence Convention Center

Pittsburgh's environmentally smart, LEED® Gold Certified David L. Lawrence Convention Center located in Pittsburgh is owned by the [Sports & Exhibition Authority of Allegheny County](#). This 1.5 million-square-foot facility features 313,000 square feet of exhibit space, 37 loading docks, 53 meeting rooms and a 31,000-square-foot ballroom. The building's dynamic architectural design is like no other convention center, offering breath-taking views, open terraces and a suspended roof structure.

About LEED®

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ is a feature-oriented rating system that awards buildings points for satisfying specified green building criteria. The six major environmental categories of review include: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design. Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels of LEED green building certification are awarded based on the total number of points earned within each LEED category.