



McCORMICK PLACE®
C H I C A G O



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American Express OPEN and Chicago's McCormick Place/SMG to Open All-New Premium Lounge at the Nation's Largest Convention Center

CHICAGO--American Express OPEN and Chicago's McCormick Place/SMG are proud to unveil a new amenity for those attending events at McCormick Place. A premium, state of the art American Express OPEN® Business Lounge is projected to open in summer 2012 on level 2.5 of the Grand Concourse in the South Building.

The American Express OPEN Business Lounge is created for American Express OPEN® Cardmembers and new applicants as a productive oasis for visitors to learn, recharge, and connect. The OPEN Business Lounge allows guests an opportunity to take a break from their busy schedule, offering free WiFi, refreshments, computer and printer access, and seating for productive meetings or pure relaxation.

"This new American Express OPEN Business Lounge will be an exciting enhancement to the McCormick Place experience," said David Causton, General Manager of McCormick Place/SMG. This is part of our ongoing strategy to incorporate amenities that provide added value to our customers. We look forward to working closely with American Express to have this state of the art lounge in place soon."

For a number of years, American Express OPEN has worked directly with McCormick Place events to offer temporary lounges to exhibitors and attendees on the show floors of McCormick Place. Recently, American Express OPEN implemented a pilot program that included a temporary lounge in the public areas of McCormick Place. Both of these offerings have been very well received by convention and trade show customers.

"The American Express OPEN Business Lounge helps to fulfill the OPEN mission: Helping businesses do more business," said Nancy Hood, Vice President Sales and Experiential Marketing, OPEN. "The lounge will give our Cardmembers special access to benefits that can help enhance their tradeshow experience by providing the amenities and services they have come to expect from American Express."

The OPEN Business Lounge will be conveniently located in the retail area of the Grand Concourse and will be open in conjunction with events taking place in the South and North Buildings. Please visit www.mccormickplace.com for additional information.

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American Express OPEN

American Express OPEN is the leading payment card issuer for small businesses in the United States and supports business owners with products and services to help them run and grow their businesses. This includes business charge and credit cards that deliver purchasing power, flexibility, rewards, savings on business services from an expanded lineup of partners and online tools and services designed to help improve profitability. Learn more at www.OPEN.com and connect with us at openforum.com and twitter.com/openforum.

Chicago's McCormick Place

McCormick Place, the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America, is comprised of four state-of-the-art buildings, the North, South and West Buildings, the Lakeside Center, and the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place hotel. Combined, McCormick Place offers 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world. Located on Chicago's lakefront just minutes from downtown, McCormick Place is owned by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and managed by SMG, a worldwide convention facility management company. For more information, please visit mccormickplace.com or on facebook.com/mccormickplace and twitter.com/mccormick_place.

SMG

Since 1977, SMG has provided management services to more than 220 public assembly facilities including arenas, stadiums, theatres and performing arts centers, equestrian facilities and convention, congress and exhibition centers. With facilities across the globe, SMG manages more than 11 million square feet (1.1 million square meters) of exhibition space. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides construction and design consulting, pre-opening services, venue management, sales, marketing, event booking, and programming. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through an in house catering company, Savor, currently servicing more than 100 accounts worldwide. For more information visit www.smgworld.com.

HIGH-RES IMAGES AND RENDERINGS:

LOUNGE: <http://cl.ly/FEp8>

RECEPTION: <http://cl.ly/FEBC>

MAIN APPROACH: <http://cl.ly/FFPX>

ALL THREE IN .ZIP: <http://cl.ly/FDf4>