



METROPOLITAN PIER AND EXPOSITION AUTHORITY
AT MCCORMICK SQUARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2016

Media Contact

Barnaby Dinges

312-361-4781

**MPEA hires Barnaby Dinges to newly created position of
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer**

CHICAGO - December 15, 2016 – The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, positioned for growth in the coming years with the addition of a major new hotel and the Wintrust Arena to the McCormick Square campus, has hired a seasoned Chicago marketing executive to help grow the business and to help tell the economic engine's story.

Dinges, 57, is a marketing industry veteran with more than 25 years of experience working in public affairs for global public relations firms FleishmanHillard, Burson-Marsteller and Hill and Knowlton. He also ran his own issue-advocacy firm, The Dinges Gang, and managed public education and outreach for the adaptive re-use of Soldier Field and the redevelopment of that part of the Museum Campus.

A graduate of Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, Dinges holds a Masters Degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and serves on the board of directors at Neumann Family Services in Chicago.

Lori Healey, CEO of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) which owns McCormick Place, said: "We will soon unveil several important new assets at the McCormick Square campus in the coming months, and Barnaby's experience and energy in successfully advocating for growth and progress in Chicago will be a benefit to our stepped-up marketing efforts to compete with other cities for convention business and to help make McCormick Square a vital new community and destination for Chicagoans."

In 2017 McCormick Square will be home to the newly named Wintrust Arena, a 10,000-seat, multi-purpose arena that will host DePaul University men's and women's basketball teams and other events. The arena will be a prominent Chicago venue for concerts, sporting events, meetings and conventions, family-friendly shows and other major special events.

The Wintrust Arena is connected to McCormick Place via sky bridges. Along with the soon-to- be-completed Marriott Marquis Chicago hotel, Wintrust Arena will be an important component to Chicago's newest community, McCormick Square.

Dinges started on December 1, 2016.

###

About McCormick Place

McCormick Place, the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America, offers 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, 173 meeting rooms, one of the largest ballrooms in the world and the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater. Located on Chicago's lakefront just minutes from downtown, McCormick Place is owned the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and is managed by SMG, A worldwide convention management company.