

### **EPA AWARDS SAVOR...CHICAGO FOOD RECOVERY CHALLENGE AWARD RECOGNIZING ITS WASTE DIVERSION INITIATIVES**

[CHICAGO, December 19, 2018] – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today honored SAVOR... Chicago, the food and beverage provider for Chicago's McCormick Place, with the 2018 Regional Food Recovery Challenge award for significantly increasing waste diversion at McCormick Square. In 2017, SAVOR... Chicago diverted a record 40 tons of food waste through its ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and consumer education.

SAVOR... Chicago participates in the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge under the "Winning on Reducing Food Waste" initiative designed to divert food waste from landfills.

This year's awardees took innovative approaches and used a variety of cost-effective and practical actions to both prevent and reduce food waste. "EPA congratulates SAVOR... Chicago for cutting food waste and recycling food scraps," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Cathy Stepp. "Participants in Region 5's 2017 Food Recovery Challenge stopped more than 200,000 tons of food scrap from going to landfills."

"Consumer education is a vital part of our being able to take sustainable practices to the next level," said Doug Bradley, SAVOR...Chicago vice president. "We have just seconds to educate millions of visitors on what goes in which waste stream. We know from experience that most people want to do the right thing when it comes to recycling and waste diversion. If we can make it simple and convenient for them to do this correctly, we all win."

"We've created the innovative Green Angels program where we staff waste areas during events with Green Angels who are there to help attendees understand what is recyclable, compostable and waste," explained Bradley. "We've created easy-to-understand graphics that help visitors quickly sort and dispose of their leftover items. Both initiatives have been a key part of our efforts to increase waste diversion."

SAVOR...Chicago has been nationally and internationally recognized for its sustainability initiatives.

#### **Background**

EPA is part of the Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative, a collaboration among EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration to reduce food loss and waste through combined federal action. More than 1,000 businesses, governments, and organizations participate in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge. In 2017, challenge participants prevented or diverted almost 648,000 tons of food from entering landfills or incinerators, saving participants up to \$31.2 million in avoided landfill tipping fees.

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# SAVOR...Chicago

## at McCormick Place

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Food waste is the single largest type of waste thrown away each year in our daily trash. In 2015, more than 39 million tons of food waste was generated. Food waste adversely impacts the economy, our communities, and the environment by wasting the resources used to grow and transport food. At the same time, approximately 12% of America's households have difficulty providing enough food for all of their family members. Hungry people in need would benefit from the redirection of nutritious, wholesome food that would have otherwise been thrown away.

The strategies used by Food Recovery Challenge organizations, plus those implemented by individuals, communities, and public-private partnerships help to lessen these impacts and bring the United States closer to meeting the national goal to reduce food waste by 50% by the year 2030.

### **McCormick Square**

The McCormick Square campus features McCormick Place -- the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America -- which offers 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, 173 meeting rooms, one of the largest ballrooms in the world, the 1,258-room Hyatt Regency, the new 1,205-room Marriott Marquis Chicago, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and the 10,387-seat Wintrust Arena. Located on Chicago's lakefront just minutes from downtown, McCormick Place is owned by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and is managed by SMG, a worldwide convention management company.

### **SAVOR**

SAVOR is the food service division of SMG, the largest public facilities management company in the world and manages the foodservice at McCormick Place and the Wintrust Arena. We pride ourselves on preparing and serving exceptional food and beverage whether for intimate VIP experiences or banquet events for over 20,000. Besides great, authentic food, the core elements of our food vision include our partnerships with local growers, producers and community members, our commitment to using antibiotic free meats and poultry, and our dedication to minimizing our impact on the environment through our robust sustainability, recycling and composting programs. [savorchicagomcpl.com](http://savorchicagomcpl.com)

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