



McCORMICK SQUARE

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Event center at McCormick Square to be named Wintrust Arena

CHICAGO — Wintrust Financial Corporation – Chicago’s leading community and corporate banking company – DePaul University, and the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), today announced that the new event center at McCormick Square will be called Wintrust Arena. The announcement comes after the signing of a letter of intent that contemplates a definitive 15-year sponsorship agreement between DePaul and Wintrust.

“As Chicago’s Bank, we try to align with the iconic brands, organizations and institutions that make this city what it is. DePaul University and McCormick Place fit right into that,” said Wintrust President & CEO Edward J. Wehmer. “Sponsoring DePaul’s new arena is both a great way for us to increase our presence in the city and a great way to help revitalize a historic Chicago district. We’re proud to be involved with the project.”

Upon completion in fall of 2017, Wintrust Arena will be home to DePaul University men’s and women’s basketball, and is planned to become a prominent Chicago venue for concerts, sporting events, meetings and conventions, family-friendly shows and other major special events.

“DePaul is grateful to have found an ideal naming rights partner in Wintrust – a company deeply rooted in the city of Chicago,” said the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University. “We are excited to see the Wintrust Arena come to life over the next year, and ultimately, bring DePaul basketball back to Chicago.”

Located at South Indiana Avenue and East Cermak Road, Wintrust Arena will be part of a lively entertainment district that includes new dining and entertainment options, hotels and vibrant streetscapes. The diverse programming and location of the new entertainment and sports venue will bring additional tourism for local businesses and help ensure long-term economic growth for the neighboring communities.

"We are thrilled to welcome Wintrust to McCormick Square," said Lori Healey, CEO of MPEA. "Wintrust Arena will be a game-changer for our McCormick Square campus, allowing us to compete for new events and activities, creating new jobs and economic opportunities for Chicago and the entire state of Illinois."

With a large network of local banks, Wintrust has a deep commitment to the communities it serves throughout Chicago. Wintrust's banks are involved with many local chambers of commerce, and are active in local charities, local government, school boards and community development activities. Wintrust also supports communities through numerous events and sponsorships.

Wintrust's philanthropic activities will be augmented with new community initiatives in partnership with DePaul. Examples include Wintrust Reads and Wintrust Field Trip Days in conjunction with Chicago Public Schools, and Wintrust Blankets Chicago, which donates blankets to Chicago-area community service organizations.

"Not only are we excited to partner with Wintrust on the naming rights of Wintrust Arena, but the impact of its support of our community service initiatives that benefit Chicago's youth and residents will be seen for years to come," said Jeanne Lenti Ponsetto, DePaul's athletics director. "Our goal when this process started was to find a Chicago-based partner that holds similar beliefs and values to DePaul University, and we feel we've accomplished that goal with Wintrust Arena."

DePaul also plans to hold its academic convocation and commencement ceremonies at the new arena.

The 10,387-seat venue will feature 22 suites, 479 club seats, two VIP club lounges and the Demon Deck, a designated section for DePaul students with a close-up view of the on-court action. Amenities will include state-of-the-art technology, multiple locker rooms, sports medicine areas and training facilities.

The building's distinct architecture will complement the surrounding area. The sleek glass facade provides a clear view of the energy and action happening inside the event center, while smooth undulating arcs on the roof rise upward, making the center instantly recognizable in the Chicago skyline.

The architecture is based on the original work of internationally renowned firm Pelli Clarke Pelli and completed by the award-winning firm, Moody Nolan, which served as the primary architect. Based in Columbus, Ohio, with offices in Chicago, Moody Nolan is the largest African American owned and managed architecture firm in the country. Clark Construction Company is the general contractor for the project.

For more information on the progress of the project, visit www.HomeCourtChicago.com.

About Wintrust

Wintrust is a financial holding company with assets of approximately \$25 billion whose common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Built on the "HAVE IT ALL" model, Wintrust offers sophisticated technology and resources of a large bank while focusing on providing service-based community banking to each and every customer. Wintrust operates fifteen community bank subsidiaries with over 150 banking locations located in the greater Chicago and southern Wisconsin market areas. Additionally, the Company operates various non-bank business units including one of the largest commercial insurance premium finance companies operating in the United States and Canada, a company providing short-term accounts receivable financing and value-added out-sourced administrative services to the temporary staffing services industry, a business unit engaging primarily in the origination and purchase of residential mortgages for sale into the secondary market throughout the United States, and companies providing wealth management services.

About DePaul University

With more than 23,000 students and approximately 300 academic programs, DePaul is the largest Catholic university in the United States and the largest private, nonprofit university in the Midwest. Established in Chicago in 1898, DePaul is nationally recognized for incorporating service learning throughout its curriculum and preparing its graduates for a global economy. The university's tradition of providing a quality education to students from a broad range of backgrounds, with particular attention to first-generation students, has resulted in one of the nation's most diverse student bodies. In recent years, as part of the university's strategic plan, a series of important alliances between the university and organizations across the city continue to strengthen DePaul's long-standing connection and commitment to Chicago.

About Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and McCormick Square

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority owns McCormick Place, the largest convention center in North America with an award-winning sustainable food program including a 2.5 acre Rooftop Garden, the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place and soon to open Wintrust Arena and Marriott Marquis Chicago – McCormick Square is a global destination fit for tourists, convention goers and native Chicagoans alike.

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