



**Peter King**

*Chief Executive, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre*

Peter King joined the award-winning Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) as Chief Executive in 2012, after a succession of Executive roles in multi-national companies across a variety of different industry sectors in Australia and Asia.

MCEC hosts more than 1,000 events annually, attracting 2.5 million visitors and generating nearly \$1billion worth of economic benefit annually to the Victorian economy.

Peter sits on a number of Australian industry Boards and has extensive experience in running major events and large venues. He also sits on the Board of the International Association of Convention Centre's (AIPC) along with the National Sports Museum which is housed at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Having been a professional cricketer in his past, Peter is on the Committee of the MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club) which operates the MCG and is the current Chair of Cricket.



**Greg O'Dell**

*President and Chief Executive Officer, Events DC*

Gregory A. O'Dell serves as the president and chief executive officer of Events DC, the official convention and sports authority for the District of Columbia. Events DC owns and operates the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Entertainment & Sports Arena, the historic Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium and the surrounding Festival Grounds, the Fields at RFK

Campus, and the non-military functions of the DC Armory. The organization also built and serves as landlord for Nationals Park, the first LEED-certified major professional sports stadium in the United States, and administers the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square.

The Government of the District of Columbia created the quasi-public Events DC in October 2009 through the merger of the Washington Convention Center Authority and the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission. Mr.

O'Dell has the unique experience of leading both organizations as part of his public service in the District of Columbia.

As president and CEO, Mr. O'Dell oversees Events DC's three lines of business: Conventions and Meetings, Sports and Entertainment and Creative Services. His primary responsibilities include oversight of the development and promotion of hospitality, athletic, entertainment and cultural activities that generate economic and community benefits for the residents and businesses of District of Columbia.

Prior to the merger, Mr. O'Dell served as chief executive officer and general manager of the Washington Convention Center Authority, where he was responsible for the operations of the 2.3-million-square-foot Convention Center, an award-winning facility that sees approximately one million visitors each year and has generated nearly \$6 billion in direct delegate spending since opening in 2003. Mr. O'Dell was also responsible for the Authority's development efforts, having led negotiations with the selected private developer in the \$520 million public-private partnership for the 1,175-room, 46-suite Washington Marriott Marquis Convention Center hotel, which opened in May 2014.

Before joining the Washington Convention Center Authority, Mr. O'Dell was the president and chief executive officer of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, where he led the team that completed – in record time and within the legislatively mandated cost cap – the 41,546-seat Nationals Park. Before heading up the Commission, he was the chief development officer for the Government of the District of Columbia, where he was responsible for stimulating and promoting economic development within the District.

Preceding his move to District government, Mr. O'Dell worked for the former management and IT consulting firm BearingPoint. While there, Mr. O'Dell advanced to senior manager and practice lead for Construction Advisory Services, responsible for construction and development services to both public and private clients. After leaving BearingPoint, he served as a principal and owner of the Clemens Consulting Group, where he continued to provide consulting services to clients throughout the lifecycle of their development projects.

A resident of Ward 6, Mr. O'Dell is the board chairman of the DowntownDC BID and the president of AIPC (International Association of Convention Centers). He also serves on the boards of the Professional Convention Management Association; the Washington, DC Economic Partnership; DC Surface Transit, Inc.; Destination DC; Wofford College; DC Jazz Festival; National Foundation for Affordable Housing Solutions; and Children's Hospital (Washington, DC). He received a bachelor's degree in finance and government from Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Updated



## **Juliana Lopez**

*CEO, Cartagena de Indias Convention Center- CCCI*

Juliana López is an Industrial Engineer. She has a Master's degree in International Business from the Florida International University and studies on Leadership and Management from Universidad de Los Andes. She entered the meeting industry in 2010 as the General Manager of the Cartagena de Indias Convention Center. At the time, a government venue that had been under public administration for almost 30 years and had just started the transition to a private operation.

Between 2012 and 2016 she was member of the Cartagena de Indias Convention Bureau and its board president from 2014 to 2016. She has been also board member of the American Chamber of Commerce and NGOs devoted to help vulnerable families in her city.

In may 2018 she became the CEO of the CCCI and Grupo Heroica's President. Grupo Heroica operates also the Costa Rica Convention Center and the Centro de Eventos Valle del Pacifico. She was recognized by the magazine Latinamerica Meetings as one of the 15 most influential leaders in the meeting industry in LATAM and by Interel one of the 20 women who advance associations in 2020.