



GACVB Annual Conference 2022 Excursions

Uptown is within the original city that includes the Entertainment District teeming with everything from nightclubs to performing arts venues and some of the best local restaurants.

Takeaways include several aspects of community development –

Public Art -- the investment in public art that has become a part of the Uptown experience to also include art and performance venues such as the Bo Bartlett Center, RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, and more. Fun fact: there are seven theaters within the Uptown footprint.

Reinvestment and planning – the redevelopment of a new and vibrant destination within the destination that encompasses the repurposing and development of the convention hotel and convention center and establishing a second campus location of Columbus State University and the value of relocating nearly 600 students and faculty to the Uptown area.

Sustainability -- the importance of connected and vibrant spaces with the Dragonfly Trail, a network of off-road greenway trails for recreation, transportation & interaction. The current 34 miles of trail include the RiverWalk, Fall Line Trace with plans to add more than 60 miles of interconnected trails that connect citizens & visitors to the Chattahoochee River, to neighborhoods & jobs, and to each other.

Victory District represents Columbus' commitment to revitalization at its best. This experience includes three distinct venues that are diverse and yet surprisingly entertaining and designed for all ages.

Must sees:

National Infantry Museum & Solider Center preserves and displays one of the greatest collections of military artifacts in the world; it is a museum of people, not just things. The visitor experience is immersive, understanding why an Infantryman does what he does, why he puts himself in harm's way in defense of an idea. This 190,000-square-foot museum is located on a 200-acre tract of hardwoods and pines just outside the gates of the Fort Benning Maneuver Center of Excellence.

Historic Westville a living history museum focused on the Chattahoochee Valley during the 19th century. The village is made up of 17 historic buildings allowing guests to fully engage in the unique cultural experiences of the Chattahoochee Valley. What to expect? Fully dressed interpreters highlighting life in the 19th century, providing tours of the various buildings, telling the history and stories of the people who lived and worked in them, as well as giving demonstrations in traditional crafts, including blacksmithing, carpentry, dressmaking, quilting, and much more! The village provides a unique timeline and glimpse of the area's history.

Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center offers a view of the ecoregion of West Central Georgia and the Chattahoochee Valley while providing access to samples of the area's rich communities of plants and animals. Another example of land reclamation and collaboration among the Columbus Water Works, Columbus State University, and the City of Columbus, the Center provides exhibits, displays and nature trails, formal and informal programs about the ecology and natural history of the region. Interpretive and hands-on programming is provided by Columbus State University professional staff, contributing faculty, student assistants, and volunteers.

Must sees: indoor and outdoor exhibits of living reptiles and fish, tree top canopy, a stream habitat supporting various plants and animals, a pollinator garden, beehives, and environmental art.

Midcity Yards is an active destination in Columbus where friends, family and neighbors come together for fun and to wind down. Humming with activity, yet casual to its core, Midcity gives a vibrant new life to the city's long-time industrial hub and adjacent historic railyard.

Experiences include:

Fetch Park (open) -- The ultimate place to "Unleash and Unwind®" for both humans and pups, offering an expansive green space and full-service bar with coffee, beer, wine, and spirits. Covered in durable, mud-free field turf and featuring cooling stations, a bath area, shaded seating, multiple Ultra Bright Outdoor Televisions and Wi-Fi throughout.

Moe's Original BBQ (opening early 2022) -- A Southern soul food revival where great food is served in an atmosphere that is relaxed, spontaneous, yet civilized. Southern style side dishes and desserts are prepared daily from recipes passed down for generations.

Brewery & Tasting Room (opening early 2022) -- A great place to catch up with friends or kick off a date night, Midcity Yards' brewery concept is the anchor for good times in Columbus. With indoor bar service and an open-aired patio, this is a hub where people can come together.