### Data, Data, Data!

Collecting, Organizing and Presenting to Support Facility Investment

Tuesday July 30, 2024



650+ conference, convention, event center & hotel studies

175+ destination & entertainment district studies

200+ youth sports, stadium & arena studies

20+ placemaking and destination strategy plans in the last 3 years

## **Rob Hunden** President & CEO

Public and Private Destination Development Expertise

- Huckaby & Associates, Washington, DC 1994 1996
- Indianapolis Bond Bank/Mayor's Office 1996 1998
- Horwath Landauer/Grubb & Ellis, Chicago 1998 2000
- C.H. Johnson Consulting, Chicago, 2000 2005
- Hunden Partners, Chicago 2006 Present

Nearly 30 Years of International Industry Experience

- 1,000+ Studies, \$20B+ in Projects, 250+ Destinations
- Speaker, Teacher and Author, including:
  - Destinations International
  - IAVM
  - ICMA
  - IEDC
  - ISHC



## **Jay Burress** EVP, Tourism

**Destination Marketing** 

- 36 years of experience in tourism, convention, sales, marketing, sports, and public relations
- 16 years as a CEO
- Visit Anaheim 11 years
- Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau 5 years
- Visit Dallas 20 years

Destination Management / Placemaking

- Expansion of the Anaheim Convention Center
- Hosting mega events Super Bowl, World Cup, NBA All Star Game
- Creation of a Sports Commission, Community Foundation, DMO-owned LLC, and Arts Grant Program
- Event and production development





# **Panelists**



### **Dave Anderson**

General Manager, Palm Beach County Convention Center

SVP, OVG360





**Kevin Molloy** 

Executive Director at Lancaster County Convention Center





### Why is Collecting & Tracking Data Important?

- Accurately show performance in a variety of ways
- Prove impact to the community
- Show the events you can host, those lost (outgrew or never landed)
- Understand gaps: facility and market
- Understand how your building is used
  - What spaces have highest occupancy? How do you you compare to peers in occupancy?
  - HOW do groups use your facility? What spaces/how long/issues/concerns?
  - What spaces are lacking that you need to capture certain key events?
- Sync with DMO, building and elected officials. Is all data consistent?

### Who to Coordinate with?

#### Destination Management Org/CVB

- How do they track your data; how does it differ?
- What are the gaps and Why are we out of sync?

#### Customer Advisory Board

- Prior Customers Why did they leave? What is missing? What do they need? Where are they now?
- Current Customers What keeps them there? How do they use the building? Any risk of losing? Why?
- Potential Customers What will it take to land them? What is missing? Who are the competitors and what do they offer?

#### Sales People at DMO and Building

- Coordinate. Monthly Meetings
- Compare and sync data. How does each track?

### What to Track?

- Events by type. Define terms. Are these consistent with IAVM industry terms?
- Average/Total Event Size. Total Attendance, Length, Peak Room Block
- Revenue by Event. Facility rent by room type and by square foot. Catering revenue. Passthrough and other revenue.
- **Expenses by Event.** Understand fixed and variable expenses. What drives costs? Do you know what it takes to be profitable on an event? What is decision matrix to determine bidding/booking approach?
- Impact by Event. Who tracks (DMO?)
  - Overnighters and spending by category. Room nights. Rates, room blocks.
  - Daytrippers and spending by category.
  - Tax impacts: hotel, auto rental, sales tax, income taxes.
  - Determine "net new" to community
- Facility Impact Analysis. Forces data to be synced, determination of community benefit.

### **Standard Performance Metrics/Statements**

- Income Statement. Revenue and expense, net profit/loss. Line item detail.
- Events & Attendance. By type. Many metrics here. Which are most impactful? Trends?
- **Roomnight Report.** How many roomnights annually and trends? STR set performance.
- Impact Analysis. Economic, jobs and tax impacts. For facility and by event.
- Peer/Competitor Status/SWOT.
  - Who are your top competitors and how are they performing?
  - What have competitors done to improve their facility, package and performance?
  - Who is moving into or out of your competitive set? Why?
  - Who are your aspirational competitors? How to move into their sphere effectively?
- District/Package Analysis. How does your walkable district stack up? What is missing, what are reported issues from Customer Advisory Board?

### What's at Stake?

- Inability to communicate true value of the building
- Renovation/Expansion funding
- Business optimization....how do you know what biz to go after if you don't know your KPIs?
- Ongoing financial support (city/county, authority, DMO, etc.)
- Governance changes. Can you justify your structure, leadership, team, performance?
- Reputation. Yours, your building, your community
- Your community, especially the district that relies on consistently strong performance

### How to Get Started?

- Initiate an Impact Study for your building....which will...
- Force a data, KPI, metrics and financial review of your business and include the DMO
- Initiate a Renovation/Expansion Study for your building....which will...
- Force a data, KPI, metrics and financial review of your business and include the DMO
- Initiate a Business Optimization Analysis for your building....which will...
- Determine what business is most impactful for your city and building and....
- Suggest changes to the sales/marketing approach to optimize impactful business, and...
- Force a data, KPI, metrics and financial review of your business and include the DMO

# **Thank You**