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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: **MARCH 23, 2023** ITEM: **8D**

SUBJECT: **Review Recommendation for Out-of-State Travel for Staff to Attend VenueConnect Event in Pennsylvania and Vote on Whether or Not to Approve**

DATE: March 17, 2023

FROM: Michele Richards, CEO

PRESENTATION BY: Michele Richards, CEO

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*Action Item*

### **BACKGROUND**

Three members of the Events Department staff were scheduled to attend a top event management school in Florida hosted by the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM). When Florida was added to the list of banned travel states for California state employees, attendance at the event management school was canceled for those employees.

OC Fair & Event Center was given the option for either a refund, or to apply the payment to the upcoming VenueConnect event in Pittsburgh, also presented by IAVM. VenueConnect is a venue management conference that provides education sessions on increasing revenues, reducing expenses, enhancing security, sales/marketing trends, ticketing, guest services, diversity and inclusion, etc.

Since this out-of-state travel was not included in the 2023 approvals by the Board during the budget process, staff is bringing the request to the Board.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve out-of-state travel for Events Department staff to attend the VenueConnect event in Pittsburgh, PA.