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**For Immediate Release –**



**MECA GENERATES \$4.7 M PROFIT IN 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR**  
***STRONG ATTENDANCE AND HIGHER PROFITS HIGHLIGHT FISCAL YEAR***

**OMAHA, Neb. (January 10, 2017)** – As the Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) enters its 14<sup>th</sup> year of operation the focus remains on reinvesting in the facility to continue to successfully attract marquee events.

MECA competes aggressively for concerts and conventions in order to maintain and grow attendance and revenue. MECA generated \$4.7 million in profit before depreciation and amortization for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, which is a 51% increase over the past fiscal year. MECA has generated a profit every year since opening CenturyLink Center Omaha in 2003 and according to City estimates, contributes more than \$70 million to the local economy every year.

CenturyLink Center Omaha welcomed 1.0 million guests in fiscal 2015-16, and generated \$43 million in revenue, a 5% increase over the previous fiscal year. The revenue increase can be attributed to the 2016 Olympic Swim Trials along with additional Convention Center revenue.

MECA's ongoing maintenance and reinvestment in the facility is one of management's top priorities. The reinvestment dollars come from increased annual operating revenue and the use of MECA's capital reserve fund. MECA spent \$1.7 million on various projects in fiscal 2015-16 to improve the guest experience. Projects in the last fiscal year and the current fiscal year include a lactation suite for nursing mothers, meeting room level lounge furniture, and expanded wireless capabilities in the facility including the addition of free public Wi-Fi for arena guests. All of these projects were paid for by MECA. No taxpayer dollars were used.

Looking ahead, 2017 is shaping up to be another successful year. In March, CenturyLink Center Omaha is proud to host the 2017 FEI World Cup and Dressage Finals. Fans will also enjoy a strong lineup of concerts including Twenty One Pilots, Ariana Grande, Shawn Mendes, Eric Church, Neil Diamond, Coldplay, The Lumineers, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, Florida Georgia Line, Blake Shelton, Green Day, and New Kids On The Block. In addition, the convention center will stay busy with new and repeat annual business.

CenturyLink Center Omaha remains one of the most successful venues in the world. In 2016, concert industry publication *Pollstar* ranked CenturyLink Center Omaha 33<sup>rd</sup> in country and 69<sup>th</sup> in the world for number of concert tickets sold.

Successfully managing TD Ameritrade Park Omaha for the City of Omaha is another important responsibility for MECA. TD Ameritrade Park Omaha was again successful hosting Creighton Baseball, its second Big Ten Baseball Tournament, and the stadium's sixth NCAA Men's College World Series. The 2016 CWS went to a historic 17 games and drew 341,667 fans. MECA receives a management fee to operate TD Ameritrade Park Omaha.

### **About Us**

The Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that builds and manages public event venues in Omaha, Nebraska. The formal operations of MECA commenced on August 25, 2000 with the signing of a 99-year Lease and Development Agreement with the City of Omaha. The cost to build CenturyLink Center Omaha was \$291 million, funded through a public-private arrangement. The private sector contributed \$75 million and the public sector contributed \$216 million. CenturyLink Center Omaha opened in 2003.

In consideration of this unprecedented level of private support for a public arena, the 99-year agreement assigned MECA to exclusively operate the Facilities at its discretion. MECA is governed by a board of five appointed, independent directors and managed by a dedicated management team. Board members are appointed by the City of Omaha with appointments rotating between the City Council and the Mayor.

Another public-private arrangement was completed to create a new home for the College World Series. In 2009, MECA broke ground on TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, which opened in 2011. The stadium is home to the NCAA Division I Men's College World Series, the Creighton Bluejays men's baseball team, and host to numerous other events.

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