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FISCAL YEAR-END REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2015 *CENTURYLINK CENTER OMAHA CONTRIBUTES MILLIONS IN ECONOMIC IMPACT*

OMAHA, Neb. – As the Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) enters its 13th year of operation the focus is on planning for the future and continuing to reinvest in the facility that has contributed billions to the local economy.

CenturyLink Center Omaha welcomed 1.1 million guests in fiscal 2014-15. A six-run series of sold out Garth Brooks concerts, a HBO televised world championship fight that was viewed by millions, and the return of March Madness contributed to a higher attendance number than last fiscal year. According to the City of Omaha, the 356 event days held at the CenturyLink Center in Fiscal 2014-15 provided more than \$70 million dollars in economic impact to the community. Nearly 15 million people have visited the venue since it opened in 2003.

CenturyLink Center Omaha remains one of the most successful venues in the world. In 2015, concert industry publication *Pollstar* ranked CenturyLink Center Omaha 35th in country and 71st in the world with 225,606 tickets sold. The arena rose seven spots from 2014's ranking.

MECA continues to compete aggressively for concerts and conventions in order to maintain and grow attendance. CenturyLink Center Omaha generated \$3.1 million in profit on \$28.3 million in revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, which was comparable to the prior year. Effectively competing for concerts and conventions, while maintaining the condition and quality of the facility for the benefit of its visitors and the community, is among MECA's top priorities.

Key to maintaining and growing attendance is MECA's ongoing reinvestment in the facility. The reinvestment dollars come from increased annual operating revenue and the use of MECA's capital reserve fund, and to date, the reinvestments have enabled MECA to continue to generate over \$70 million annually in economic impact to the community. MECA spent just over \$1 million on various projects in fiscal 2014-15 including replacing acoustical panels on the Meeting Rooms Level, concrete around the facility and light fixtures as well as purchasing

numerous pieces of kitchen and operations equipment. All of these projects were paid for by MECA. No taxpayer dollars were used.

Looking ahead, there are a number of high caliber events headed back to Omaha and CenturyLink Center Omaha in the coming months and years that will put Omaha back in the national spotlight. The 2016 U.S. Olympic Swim Trials will be followed by the 2017 FEI World Cup and Dressage Finals, and the 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Regional.

TD Ameritrade Park Omaha experienced another successful year hosting Creighton Baseball, the Big East Baseball Tournament for the first time, and the stadium's fifth NCAA Men's College World Series. The CWS again broke its attendance record welcoming 353,378 fans.

TD Ameritrade Park Omaha was again financially successful in Fiscal 2014-15, generating a net revenue of \$4,632,000. These proceeds were placed in the "waterfall" settlement along with public funding sources to cover debt service, the NCAA's guarantee, and fund a capital repair and replacement reserve. MECA receives a management fee to operate the facility.

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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