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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## Temple Live Honored With Prestigious ‘Top New or Renovated Meeting Site’ Award by *ConventionSouth*

*Only 55 meeting sites in the South – 2 in Arkansas – have been selected for the award.*

**FORT SMITH, Ark.** (Oct. 31, 2016) — The Fort Smith Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is proud to announce that the publishers and editors of *ConventionSouth* – the national multimedia resource for planning events in the South – have presented Temple Live with a, “2017 Top New or Renovated Meeting Site Award.”

The news comes just five days after the CVB announced that the Fort Smith Convention Center would be honored with a, “2017 Readers’ Choice Award,” by *ConventionSouth* thanks to votes cast by the Nation’s top convention and meeting professionals.

“*ConventionSouth* readers are constantly seeking information on the newest and like-new meeting sites in the South in order to offer their attendees the most modern facilities available. This is why we are honored to bestow TempleLive with a, ‘2017 Top New or Renovated Meeting Site Award,’” said Marcia Bradford, Associate Publisher at *ConventionSouth*. “After a lengthy review of what TempleLive now has to offer meeting planners and attendees, we feel it indeed displays a superior commitment to providing groups with the top-of-the-line amenities and service that they require.”

Temple Live is among an elite list of just 55 meeting facilities – one of only two in Arkansas – located across the South to receive this year’s award. As part of the recognition, Temple Live will be featured as a, “2017 Top New or Renovated Meeting Site Award,” recipient in the December 2016 Awards Issue of *ConventionSouth* magazine.

One of the publications most popular issues of the year, it will also feature the Fort Smith Convention Center as a, “2016 Readers’ Choice Award Winner,” as well as some of the nation’s most talented meeting professionals who will be recognized in the, “Meeting Professionals To Watch,” designation.

“This recognition by *ConventionSouth* demonstrates that our promotional efforts for Fort Smith are paying off,” said Mayor Sanders. “That is due, in part, to the efforts of community leaders like Lance Beaty, of Beaty Capital Group, Inc. who provide us with the tools we need to stand out to event planners as a diversified meeting destination.”

“We truly appreciate the nomination and the award,” said Mike Brown with Temple Live.

“Being one of the only two properties recognized, along with the \$70 million Robinson Center in Little Rock, is amazing,”

Temple Live is scheduled to open in March 2017 inside of the Masonic Temple – a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places – in downtown Fort Smith, Arkansas.

“Temple Live will provide not only Fort Smith but the entire region with an exceptionally intimate and ornate 1400-capacity live music and entertainment venue, and the three ballrooms will provide an excellent option for weddings, birthday parties, corporate events, and various other occasions,” Brown said. “Construction crews are actively working to prepare Temple Live for the March 2017 opening date.

Temple Live was nominated for this year's award by the Fort Smith CVB staff – governed by the Fort Smith Advertising & Promotion Commission – who work diligently to promote Fort Smith as a desirable tourism and meeting destination.

For more information contact Russ Jester, CVB Communications Manager, at (479) 783-8888 or [info@fortsmith.org](mailto:info@fortsmith.org). Visit <http://conventionsouth.com/top-2017-new-or-renovated-awards-announced/> to view a complete list of this year's award recipients.

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