

Department Name	Civic Center – MVP Arena
Account(s)	7128

Department Function
The MVP Arena is Upstate New York’s Premiere Sports & Entertainment Facility, which is owned by Albany County. Programming in the arena includes world class concerts, family shows, consumer shows, championship sports events (NCAA) as well as Siena Men’s Basketball, the Albany Firebirds AFL Arena Football team started operating in 2024 and are rebuilding their fanbase following the tumultuous 2023 Season with Antonio Brown as the owner of the previous arena football team. The Albany FireWolves of the National Lacrosse League will start their final season in December of 2024 of the five-year agreement. Renewal discussions are already underway. Bids for future NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Men’s Ice Hockey have been submitted for 2026-2027. High school graduations and college commencements are presented annually. The MVP Arena is an official NY State Certified Movie Production Facility and portions of “Smile II” were produced at the arena in February 2024. Producing economic impact for area businesses while maximizing net operating profits for Albany County is a big part of our mission.

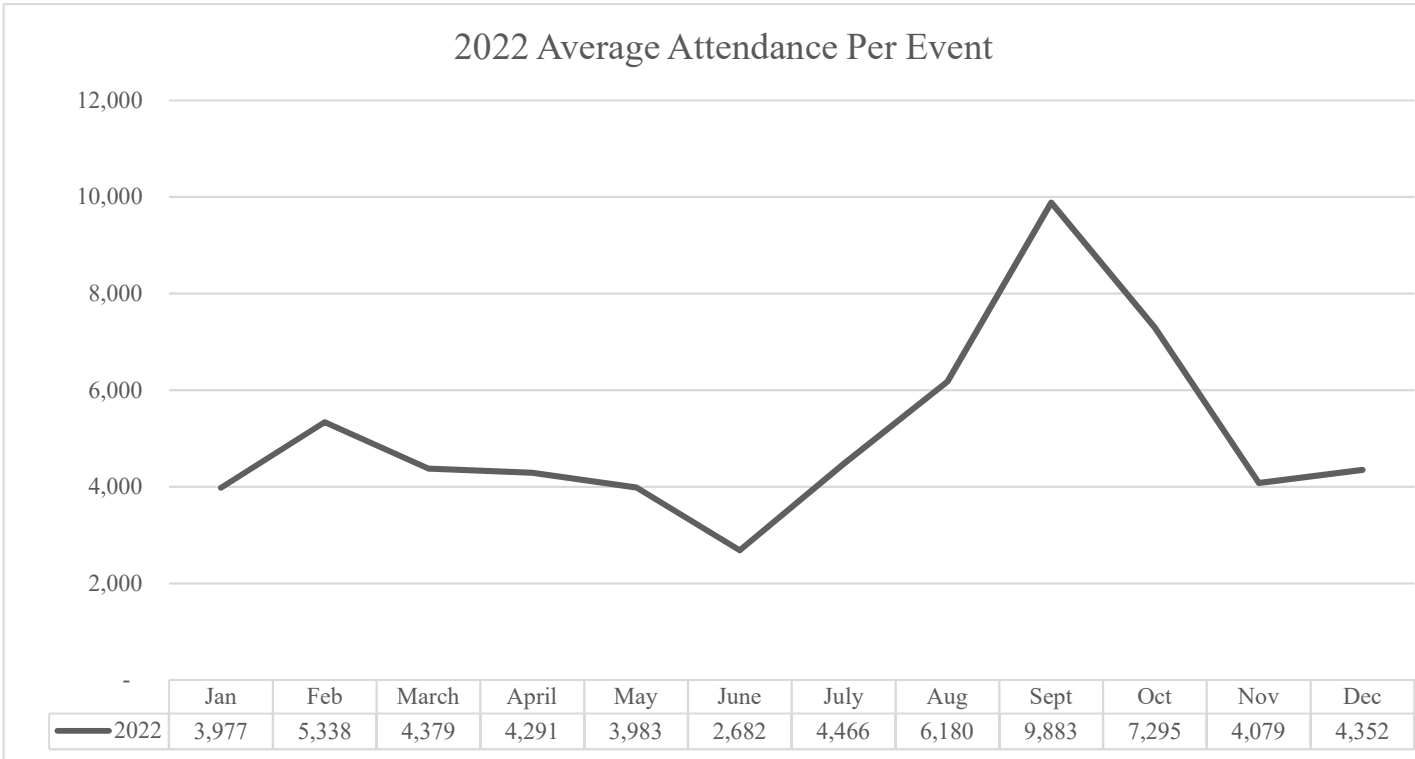
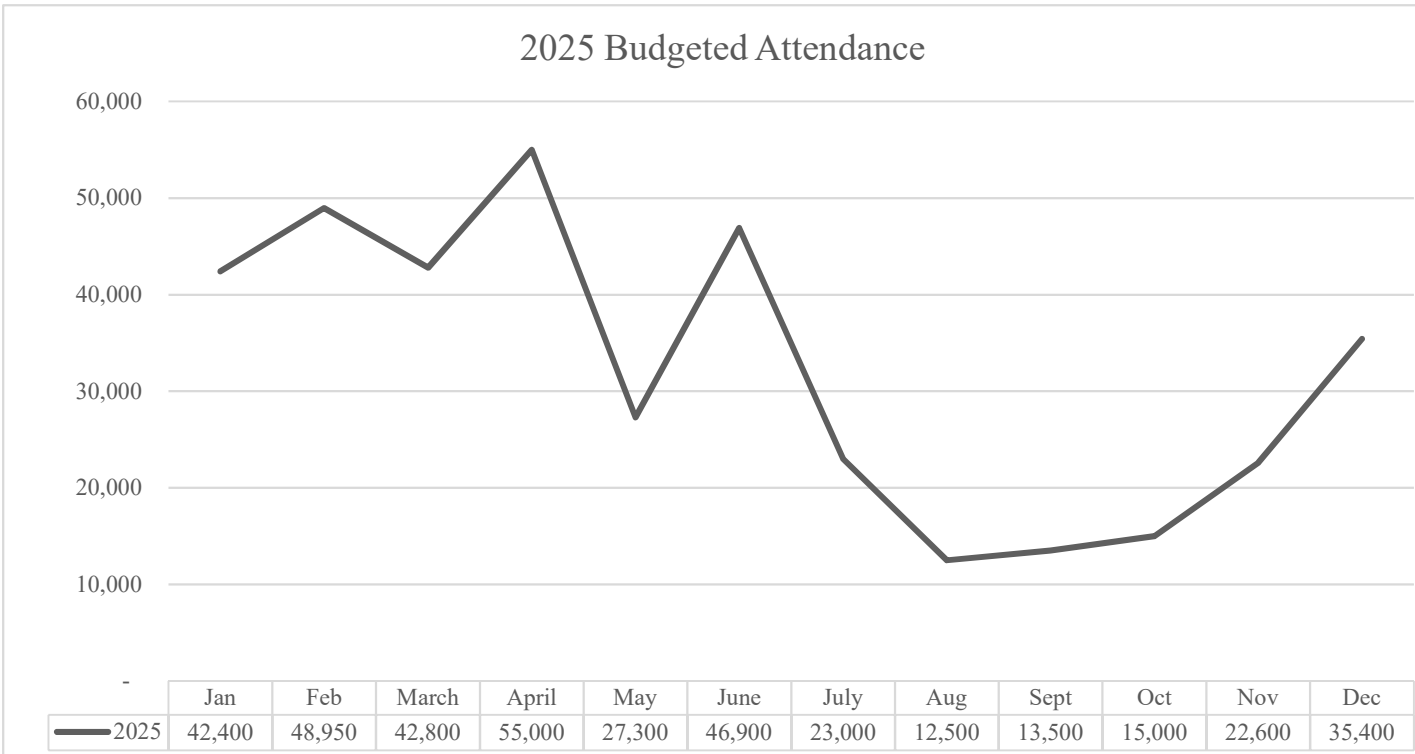
Current Year Highlights
SMG has been managing the MVP Arena successfully for the last 34 years. Over \$30 million dollars has been paid to Albany County from net operating profits over those years. More than 4,600 events have been presented. Over 22 million people attended events presented from 1990 – 2024. The MVP Arena was an integral component of Albany County’s safety plan to provide safe vaccinations for Albany County residents and to help with food distribution, sanitizer distribution and COVID testing during the pandemic. The sports and entertainment industry has finally come back to a sense of “normal” since the pandemic ended. There are many big-named artists that have been presented in 2024 at the MVP Arena including Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Nicks, Nate Bargatze, Jordan Davis, Postal Service with Death Cab for Cutie, Judas Priest, the Avett Brothers, and additional concerts later in 2024 will feature Heart, Jelly Roll, Sebastian Maniscalco, Lil Wayne, Trans-Siberian Orchestra and a few more that haven’t been announced yet. The NCAA awarded the MVP Arena with the 2024 NCAA Women’s Basketball Super-Regional, which was presented in March of 2024. Four sold out days with over 14,000 patrons each day took over the arena. A new record for the number of TV viewers of any televised women’s sports event took place in Albany when Iowa vs LSU featured Caitlin Clark, the top scorer of points in college basketball for men or women. The NCAA Men’s Ice Hockey East Regional Championship will be presented in Albany in 2026. Bids for future NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Ice-Hockey were submitted to the NCAA in February of 2024 for the hope of receiving awards in 2027-2028

Next Year Projects
There are numerous projects that have been in our Capital Plan for the arena for a long time, which require engineering services to produce scope of work to included within RFP’s. Delta Engineering has been contracted by the County to perform this work. The Upper Level Seating is expected to be completed by November of 2024. A new VIP Club is envisioned for the lobby area located between the parking garage and the concourse entrance at Level #3 in the garage. SMG and its parent company, ASM Global will be presenting recommendations to Albany County for the design and build-out of a beautiful new VIP Club in this area. An investment in this project may also be offered by ASM Global. The stairways that lead from South Pearl Street up to the mezzanine level of the atrium will be enclosed with glass and will include lockable doors to control access to the spaces. The problems in the past with pigeons and what they leave behind will be eliminated with this project. The exterior railings and concrete repairs that are needed on the Market and Beaver Street sides of the arena will be completed in the coming year. The 34-year old sound system in the arena will undergo a review and replacement designs will take place along with value engineering followed by bids to get the sound system replaced in the arena. Upgrades to the Wi-Fi will take place in 2025, which is severely needed. Show power upgrades will take place as well, which will help service the needs of the shows that are presented in the facility. All projects that have been on the Albany County Capital Plan for the civic center will have contracts in place by the end of 2024.

Link to Website	https://www.mvparena.com/
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Programmatic Highlights



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