

Program Summary:

Modernizing 580,000SF of lobby, corridor, and meeting spaces with the essence of New Orleans.

Program Statement:

As Architect of Record for Stage 1, the design team is revitalizing over 580,000 square feet at Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The renovation includes lobbies, corridors, meeting rooms, and pre-function areas.

The design strategy reconnects fragmented areas created by decades of phased construction, using cohesive finishes, unified lighting, and culturally informed spatial rhythms. Inspired by New Orleans itself, the design team abstracted elements like ironwork, vibrant colors, and the city's distinct movement and sound into a layered, immersive architectural language.

A \$20.6M investment includes 4,000+ LED fixture replacements, 40 miles of new wiring, upgraded HVAC systems, stormwater enhancements, and 60+ water bottle filling stations—all aligned with the 2030 Commitment. A separate \$48M “cool roof” spans 40 acres and meets LEED Platinum Standards.

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Building Area: (sf)
580,000

Cost per Square Foot:
231.03

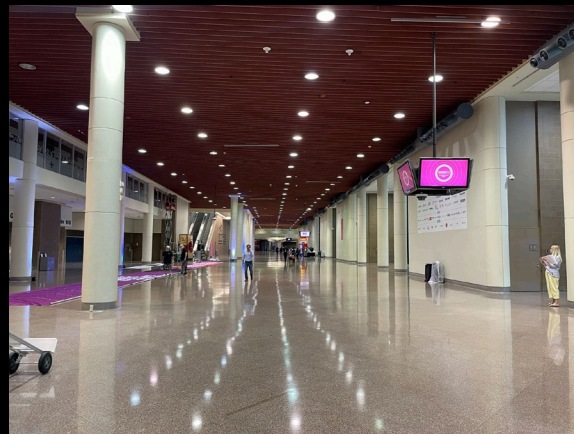
Construction Cost
\$134,000,000

Date of Completion:
Fall 2024

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MCCNO now feels warmer and more inviting, but most importantly more intuitive to navigate.

Before: below





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The custom carpet design at MCCNO subtly traces the curve of the Mississippi River, serving as an orienting feature within the space. This gesture offers a quiet nod to the city's geography, grounding visitors in place and echoing the natural flow that has long shaped New Orleans.



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Each updated escalator is color-coded to match its corresponding hall, serving both as a wayfinding aid and a convenience for visitors.



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Previously, disconnected layout, outdated finishes, created barriers to customer engagement and brand alignment.

Now, updated typography and color-coded lettering helps visitors easily establish what hall they are in.



Images

Before (Bottom); After (Top)





A-255.06

Enhancing Visitor Comfort

Modular furniture offers guests a comfortable place to sit and rest, while its easy-to-move design allows for flexible reconfiguration when needed.





A-255.07

Custom Seating

Custom benches throughout the space double as living installations, integrating greenery into their design. These sculptural pieces function both as seating and soft interventions of nature.



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Enhanced Meeting Amenities

Once dark, the renovation adds light and dimension



Images

Before (Bottom); After (Top)





A-255.09

Coordinated Wayfinding

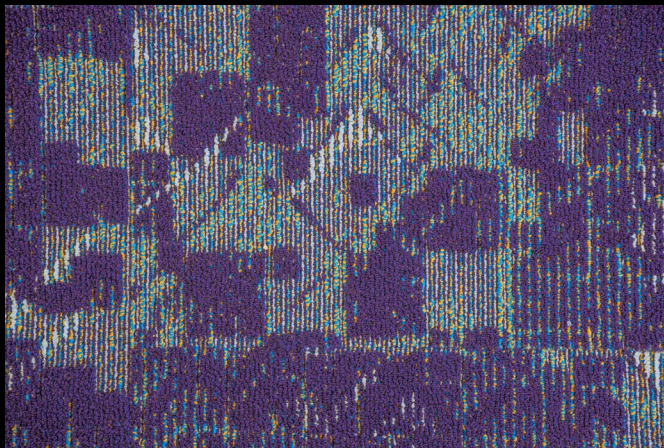
This alignment between color and number helps visitors quickly orient themselves within the expansive space.

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Flexible Meeting Spaces

More than 120 meeting rooms have been renovated with over 100 million dollars invested. Improvements include advanced technology, aesthetic redesign, plus audio/visual upgrades.





A-255.11

Storytelling in Detail

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A-255.12

Stacked floor plan

