

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Visitors bureau names Expy Award winners



The "dramatic transformation" of Columbus' airport renaming as John Glenn Columbus International Airport in June has earned it an Expy Award from Experience Columbus. Dispatch File Photo

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**Wednesday**

Posted Jan 11, 2017 at 3:30 PM Updated Jan 11, 2017 at 5:29 PM

Two library systems, a nonprofit foundation and an airport are among the winners of this year's Expy Awards, convention and visitors bureau Experience Columbus announced Wednesday.

The Expys recognize contributions to the local hospitality industry and visitor experience for 2016.

The winners are:

– The Columbus Foundation for the 2016 National CEOs for Cities meeting. The three-day meeting was a success story for convention bureau's "Make It Columbus" initiative, which encourages local groups and individuals with connections to national associations to get those groups to bring events to Columbus.

– The Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Ohio State University libraries for the 82nd IFLA World Library and Information Conference. The August event brought in more than 3,100 visitors from 137 countries.

– John Glenn Columbus International Airport for its "dramatic transformation" of the terminal building and its renaming to honor the late Ohio-born senator and astronaut.

– Columbus Downtown Development Corporation for its ongoing work in transforming the Downtown riverfront and Scioto Greenways project.

– The Ohio Quarter Horse Association for its 50th annual congress. The annual event, held at the Ohio Expo Center, is Columbus' largest annual convention and the largest single-breed horse show in the world.

– Columbus Association for the Performing Arts for the annual Festival Latino, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016.

– Columbus Symphony Orchestra for the fifth anniversary of Picnic with the Pops moving to Columbus Commons in Downtown.

The awards will be presented at Experience Columbus' annual meeting on March 14 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.