



# OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2026 OHIO CHAMBER TOURISM SUMMIT

Playhouse Square Cleveland

Thursday, October 15, 2026



*Rocket Arena*



*Playhouse Square*



*WIST*



*Ohio Lobby*

**Sponsored By:** Destination Cleveland, Fahlgren Mortine, Kalahari Resorts, Ohio Marine Trades Association, Playhouse Square, Rock Entertainment Group

### 11:45AM – 12:30PM - Tour of Rocket Arena

#### 12:30 – 12:40PM Conference Welcome

- Matt MacLaren, Director of Tourism Policy, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

#### 12:40 - 1:10PM Entertainment: On Stage Performance by [216STIX!](#) (WIST)

#### 1:10 - 1:30PM Keynote Speaker

- Nic Barlage, CEO of Rock Entertainment Group, Cleveland Cavaliers, Monsters, Charge, and Rocket Arena Board Member

#### 1:30 – 2:15PM Panel of Legislators on Supporting Ohio's Tourism Industry

- Representative Mike Dovilla
- Representative Melanie Miller
- Representative Bride Rose Sweeney
- Moderator: Matt MacLaren, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

#### 2:15 – 3:00PM Industry Panel on “Visit, Live, and Work” messaging

- Todd Kleismit, Executive Director, America 250-Ohio
- Emily Lauer, VP of PR and Communications, Destination Cleveland
- Bill Reed, General Manager, Kalahari Resorts Sandusky
- Bryce Riggs, CEO, Seneca County Collaborative
- Moderator: Liz Kennedy, VP of Client Engagement at Fahlgren Mortine/The Shipyard

#### 3:00 – 3:45PM Industry Panel on Performing Arts

- Craig Hassall, CEO, Playhouse Square
- Devin Sudman, Executive Director, Stuarts Opera House
- Gabriel Van Aalst, CEO, Dayton Live
- Wendy Wharff Brewer, Executive Director, People's Bank Theatre
- Chad Whittington, CEO, CAPA
- Moderator: Sarah Sisser, Executive Director and CEO, CreativeOhio

#### 3:45 - 4:00PM Tourism Professional of the Year Award

#### 4:00 - 5:00PM Reception at Playhouse Square (Ohio Lobby)