

The logo for Bojangles Entertainment Complex, featuring the word "Bojangles" in a large, stylized, black font with a star above the 'j'. Below it, "ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX" is written in a smaller, bold, black font.

BOJANGLES COLISEUM ★ OVENS AUDITORIUM

## ABOUT BOJANGLES ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

Ovens Auditorium and Bojangles Coliseum have been entertaining guests at the east Charlotte auditorium-coliseum complex since 1955. The complex was the city's first major civic auditorium and dedicated sports and concert venue and, at the time of its opening, received global recognition for featuring the largest unsupported dome in the world. Since opening, these venues have hosted over 19,000 events and welcomed millions of visitors from near and far, carving out a special place in Charlotte's history and heart.

The celebrated Coliseum has been known by many names: Charlotte Coliseum, Independence Arena, Cricket Arena and Bojangles Coliseum. From Elvis Presley to Aretha Franklin, Dick Clark to David Copperfield and many other notable performers, these stages have been graced by a full spectrum of memorable events. Guests have seen top-touring concerts, sporting events, family shows, comedy shows, Broadway shows, symphony and opera performances, nationally known speakers, graduations and several other diverse entertainment events.

The Coliseum served as the home base for hockey in Charlotte from 1956 to 1977, and again from 1993 to 2005. In 2015 the Charlotte Checkers, the AHL affiliate of the NHL Florida Panthers and Seattle Kraken, returned to the Coliseum as the anchor tenant.

In 2019, Ovens Auditorium and Bojangles Coliseum became Bojangles Entertainment Complex. Called BOplex for short, the two-venue complex offers a fitting tribute to 6-plus years of joint community involvement and entertainment.

In early 2020, a 35,000-square-foot connector was completed between Ovens Auditorium and Bojangles Coliseum, officially unifying the two venues as one. In addition to linking the buildings, the addition enhanced the guest experience with more food and beverage options, additional restrooms, hospitality space and an outdoor patio.

## ACCOLADES

- Iconic acts have played at the Bojangles Coliseum over the years including Elvis, The Beatles, Louis Armstrong, Diana Ross, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Billy Graham, Bob Hope, Bruce Springsteen and more.
- In July 2009, the Coliseum's exterior was designated as a historic landmark by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmark Commission.
- Ovens Auditorium is the largest-capacity theater in the city, and is consistently named one of the Top 200 Theatre Venues Worldwide by Pollstar, a leading trade publication.
- Bojangles Coliseum is consistently ranked as one of the largest meeting facilities in Charlotte in the Charlotte Business Journal's annual Book of Lists.
- In 2017, Bojangles Coliseum became an official venue for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Basketball Tournament, and in 2019 the Coliseum hosted several basketball events for the NBA All-Star Weekend in Charlotte.
- In 2020, Bojangles Entertainment Complex was one of the first facilities in North Carolina to receive the Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC) STAR™ Facility Accreditation, the highest accolade in the cleaning industry.
- The iconic Bojangles Coliseum dome was an architectural marvel of its time, boasting what was once the largest unsupported steel dome coliseum in the world and the first free-spanning dome in the U.S.
- The construction of Bojangles Entertainment Complex was a catalyst for massive growth in East Charlotte along Independence Boulevard and it continues to be an anchor for economic development in the community.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mecklenburg County Public Health Department utilized the BOplex for testing and as its primary mass vaccination site.
- In 1981, Michael Jordan played his first college game for the University of North Carolina at the Coliseum.
- Bojangles Coliseum was the site of the longest game in American Hockey League history. On May 10, 2018 the Charlotte Checkers lost to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms 2-1 in five overtimes.
- Ovens Auditorium was named to honor David Ovens, former vice president and general manager of J. B. Ivey department store who led the auditorium-coliseum citizen planning committee back in the 1950s.

## BY THE NUMBERS



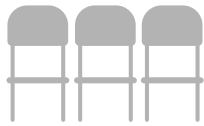
# 35,000

NUMBER OF SQUARE FEET  
ADDED IN THE 2020 EXPANSION



# \$20 MILLION

2020 RENOVATIONS SPEND



# 10,829

TOTAL SEATING CAPACITY



# 19,000

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF EVENTS  
BOJANGLES ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX  
HAS HOSTED SINCE OPENING IN 1955

## RECENT ENHANCEMENTS

In the Spring of 2020, the Bojangles Entertainment Complex unveiled a new connector between Bojangles Coliseum and Ovens Auditorium, officially unifying the two historic venues. Later in 2020, all seats and carpeting in Ovens Auditorium were replaced as an additional experiential enhancement.

The \$20 connector million project added 35,000 square feet to the BOplex and included a pedestrian connection and an additional entrance to the two venues, office space, a full production kitchen, additional public restrooms and an artist corridor for performers. The project also added an outdoor plaza, pre-function lobbies and the 4,400-square-foot East CLT Room, which is the complex's

fourth rentable space and allows the venue to accommodate a wider variety of events. A new art installation located on the outdoor plaza highlights the iconic dome of Bojangles Coliseum and features the names of performers and events that have been a part of its storied 65-year history. The connector facility was designed to integrate the mid-century modern aesthetic of the existing buildings while incorporating modern conveniences and amenities—including LEED certified design. The Bojangles Entertainment Complex team worked closely with the landmark commission to preserve the Bojangles Coliseum's landmark status and history.

STAY CONNECTED WITH BOJANGLES ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX. DISCOVER MORE AT [BOPLEX.COM](https://www.boplex.com).



@TheBOplex



@TheBOplex



@theboplex

### CHARLOTTE REGIONAL VISITORS AUTHORITY CONTACTS:

**KAREN BRAND** • CRVA Director of Communications • 704.414.4172 • [karen.brand@crva.com](mailto:karen.brand@crva.com)

**LAUREN HAWK** • Public Relations Manager • 704.414.4184 • [lauren.hawk@crva.com](mailto:lauren.hawk@crva.com)