



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**JOHN A. DELANEY**  
MAYOR

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney dedicated the new Sports and Entertainment Arena today and also unveiled the dedication plaque for the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville. Funded by The Better Jacksonville Plan, the new \$130 million arena is being constructed on nine acres of land just west of the new ballpark. The arena will officially open later this year.

"This facility will attract first-rate entertainment and major sporting events to Jacksonville," said Mayor Delaney. "Families will have the opportunity to enjoy great concerts, arena football, hockey, ice shows and basketball games in a first-class setting."

The new arena will seat up to 14,000 for hockey and arena football games, 15,000 for basketball games, and 14,000 to 16,000 for concerts. The seating in the new arena includes 1,000 club seats, 28 suites, four party suites and a party deck. The total capacity of the new arena will be nearly double that of the current coliseum.

The new arena will also have better access for the athletes and performers. It will have four team locker rooms and four star dressing rooms. In addition, it will have 27,000 square feet of floor area, three levels of floor lighting, 120,000 pounds of overhead rigging capacity, a stagehand office and two road crew rooms.

In addition, the facility will feature an attractive exterior that is designed to complement the historic architecture of St. Andrews Church as well as the brick of the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville.

The old coliseum, which was built in 1959, was imploded at 10:45 a.m. to make way for additional parking in the sports complex.