

ON THE HORIZON

More than \$9 billion in new North America sports venues are set to debut in 2020. Feature writer Steve Traiman gets insight from stadia owners and operators.

The North America sports venue building and renovation boom continues in 2020 with more than US \$9 billion in new and renovated facilities set for completion.

Included are the new 70,000-seat **SoFi Stadium** in Inglewood, California, to be shared by the **NFL Los Angeles Rams** and **Chargers**, at an estimated \$5 billion the costliest ever NFL stadium; 65,000-seat domed **Allegiant Stadium**

in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the to-be-renamed **NFL Las Vegas Raiders**, moving from Oakland, California; the 40,300-seat domed **Globe Life Field** for the **MLB Texas Rangers** in Arlington; and **Lynn Family Stadium**, the new 14,000-capacity home of Louisville City FC (Kentucky) of the **United Soccer League (USL)**.

Major renovations include a facelift for 56,000-seat **Dodger Stadium** for the

MLB Los Angeles Dodgers, featuring creation of a new Centerfield Plaza and entrance, with almost two acres of unique food offerings, entertainment and kids' areas, and retail locations; and a renovation and expansion for **Dunedin Stadium** (Florida) as long-time winter quarters for the **MLB Toronto Blue Jays**, increasing seating to 8,000 and adding a new 90,000ft² Blue Jays Player Development Complex.

SOFI STADIUM, INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

The estimated \$5 billion, approximately 70,000-seat SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, shared by the **NFL Los Angeles Rams** and **Chargers**, opens in July 2020.

The architect is **HKS**; **Turner AECOM Hunt** is the general contractor joint venture; and **Legends** is providing project management services.

The stadium can expand up to 100,000 and will feature 260 luxury suites, more than 13,000 premium seats and over 3 million ft² of usable space.

Digital personal finance company SoFi has acquired naming rights to the stadium, located in Hollywood Park, in a 20-year deal.

SoFi will also receive a 27,000ft² branded VIP activation space inside the stadium, including a dedicated lounge for its members.

SoFi is also an official partner of the two teams, as well as a partner of the 6,000-seat performance venue and Hollywood Park — a 298-acre sports and entertainment destination. In addition to hosting Rams and Chargers NFL games, the stadium will hold year-round sports and entertainment events and has already secured the **2022 Super Bowl LVI**, the **2023 College Football Championship** and the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2028 Olympic Games.

First concert events are **Taylor Swift's** Lovers Fest West, July 25 & 26, and Kenny Chesney's Chillaxifications tour, August 1.

SoFi CEO Anthony Noto said: *"This is a giant leap toward achieving our company's mission of helping people get their money right by reaching our members where they are. The partnership with this transformative project taking shape under (Rams owner/chairman) Stan Kroenke's leadership is the perfect opportunity to drive awareness and trust in the SoFi brand as we continue to grow and reach members on a national level."*

Kroenke added: *"It would be impossible to build a stadium and entertainment district of this magnitude without incredible and innovative partners like SoFi who share our ambitions for Los Angeles, our fans worldwide and the National Football League."*



LYNN FAMILY STADIUM, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Lynn Family Stadium, the new \$65 million home of the **Louisville City Football Club** (Kentucky) of the **United Soccer League (USL)**, is a 14,000-capacity, 11,700-seat soccer-specific stadium in the up-and-coming Butchertown neighbourhood.

Opening in the spring of 2020, the ambitious stadium design is by **HOK**, one of the global design leaders.

With the **Messer-Harmon JV** joint venture as construction manager, the stadium features an iconic, copper-coloured canopy designed by structural engineer **Walter P Moore**.

The stadium's intimate, 270-degree seating bowl opens to the nearby Ohio River and provides views to the downtown Louisville skyline.

The main scoreboard at the north end towers above a tiered safe-standing area directly adjacent to the pitch.

The Lynn Family partnered with the club for a decade-long naming rights partnership. *"We are thrilled to be able to contribute not only to the development and appreciation of soccer but to the Louisville community as a whole,"* said Dr. Mark and Cindy Lynn. *"We could not be more honoured in helping Louisville City FC erect a stadium built for soccer where the city can come together to enjoy the fastest growing sport in America."* Louisville City FC President Brad Estes said, *"The Lynn Family are the perfect fit for Louisville City because they believe in the same things we do as an organisation: family, community and success."*

DODGER STADIUM, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The **MLB Los Angeles Dodgers** will complete a \$100 million facelift at the 56,000-seat **Dodger Stadium** in Chavez Ravine in time for the 2020 season in April, with the Dodgers set to host Major League Baseball's All-Star Game.

Architect of record: **D'Agostino Izzo Quirk Architects, Inc/Levin & Associates/Studio-MLA** Contractor: **PCL Construction**



Dodgers' president & CEO Stan Kasten said: *"Dodger Stadium has always been and remains the most beautiful place ever built to play or watch the game of baseball, and these renovations will enhance every aspect of the fan experience with modern and family-friendly amenities."*

Included for the MLB's third oldest stadium that opened in 1962 are creation of a new Centerfield Plaza and entrance, with almost two acres of unique food offerings, entertainment and kids' areas, retail locations, sponsor activations, more social and standing room areas, and greater access for those with special needs.

It will also be the new permanent home to the "Legends of Dodger Baseball" plaques and a new statue of **Hall of Fame** pitcher **Sandy Koufax**, joining a relocated statue of **Jackie Robinson**.

Other new additions include renovations to the Left and Right Field Pavilions with new restrooms, enclosed bars with views into the bullpen, the creation of standing room areas at the top of each Pavilion, enhanced ADA seating and "home run seats" just beyond the outfield wall; and new elevators in right- & left-field and bridges to connect the new Pavilion standing room decks to the rest of the stadium for a 360-degree connection around the park's perimeter; and a new sound system. >>



« DUNEDIN STADIUM, DUNEDIN, FLORIDA

Florida's **Dunedin Stadium** is completing a \$102 million facelift and expansion as continuing winter headquarters for the **MLB Toronto Blue Jays**.

The city entered into an agreement with the team in November 2017 to keep Toronto's spring training and minor league operations for the next 25 years.

An agreement was reached with **Gilbane Construction Co.** as construction manager for a guaranteed \$96.5 million maximum price amendment, with **Turner Construction Co.** as subcontractor for the stadium, and Gilbane doing the other projects — with overall supervision. Another \$5.4 million is set for architect **Populous**, permitting and other costs. The stadium will see capacity increased from 5,500 to about 8,000 through added seats, standing room and a new Party Deck.



Also added are a new scoreboard, Jays Shop, Jays Zone and BBQ Tent, plus an air-conditioned bar along the third base line, an outdoor bar in right field and a boardwalk around the outfield, enabling 360-degree circulation for fans.

The stadium should be ready for spring training in February, according to Doug Hutchens, Deputy City Manager and point man on the project.

The expansion project includes a new 90,000ft² Blue Jays Player Development Complex that will have a 10,000ft² weight room, eight locker rooms, two dining rooms, two training rooms, classrooms and large conference rooms, sports labs, plunge pools and a sauna, among other features.

While the building will not be completed until summer, the outdoor amenities will be ready for spring training. Included are three new ballfields for a total of six - and a new half-field, five-bay and seven-bay batting cages, and two 10-pack pitching mounds.

The Jays will use the existing Clubhouse that will revert to the city after the new Centre is completed.

The stadium has been home since 1977 to the Blue Jays, their minor league **Dunedin Blue Jays** of the **Class A Florida State League**, and the Dunedin High School baseball teams.

GLOBE LIFE FIELD, ARLINGTON, TEXAS

The **MLB Texas Rangers** will move into a new \$1.2 billion, retractable-roof, 43,000-seat **Globe Life Field** in Arlington, Texas, for the 2020 season. Financing for the new multi-purpose venue is a 50/50 partnership between the City of Arlington and the Rangers.

Globe Life extended its naming rights deal, worth a reported \$11 million annually, through the 2048 season. Architect is **HKS** with associate **VLK Architects**; **Manhattan Construction** is general contractor; **Walter P Moore**, structural engineer; and **ME Engineers**, services engineer. Premium seating includes over 4,200 Club Seats; 71 long-term and 37 nightly event Suites; five Field Level and three Upper Level Clubs with total capacity of about 1,500. A new shopping mall, Loews Hotel and a Ballpark Village are also part of the "Texas Live" project.



The 238,000ft² roof includes 120,900ft² of ETFE plastic polymer along concourses to allow natural light into the building. The Rangers have partnered with **Live Nation** for concerts and other events, with Grammy winner and country star **Chris Stapleton** headlining the opening event March 14. Special guests are **Willie Nelson & Family**, **Jamey Johnson** and **Yola**.

First baseball game is a March 23 spring training match against the **St. Louis Cardinals**.

With construction about 85% complete in late November, Jack Hill, the Rangers' senior vice president for project development, said: *"We're good. Obviously, we have a lot of work to do. There has been great cooperation between the workforce and the City of Arlington. It is really starting to come together. The roof is in good shape. We have hit all our milestones."* Rangers vice president Rob Matwick emphasised: *"Globe Life Field will be more than just the home of the Texas Rangers, It will be a 365-day-a-year sports and entertainment venue!"*

ALLEGiant STADIUM, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

The \$2 billion, 65,000-seat domed **Allegiant Stadium** opens in August in Las Vegas for the to-be-renamed **NFL Las Vegas Raiders**.

Venue will be operated by **ASM Global**, formerly AEG Facilities, with **Manica Architecture** and **HNTB** as architects; **Mortenson/McCarthy** is the joint venture contractor; **ICON Venue Group** is project manager; and **Legends Global Partnerships** is official premium ticketing and sponsorship agency.

Las Vegas-based travel company **Allegiant**, was announced in August as the naming rights & founding partner for the stadium.

Other major sponsors and founding partners for Allegiant Stadium include **Caesars Entertainment**, **Cox Communications**, **Desert Ford Dealers & San Manuel Casino**. Additional founding partners include **Credit One Bank**, serving as official credit card of the Raiders; **America First Credit Union**, serving as exclusive credit union and debit card partner of the Raiders; and **Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling**, serving as official soft drink partner of the team and stadium. Streaming service **Twitch** sponsorship includes a branded lower level lounge featuring interactive elements and its live-streaming capabilities and community to a range of entertainment experiences planned for the stadium. Along with Allegiant Stadium, the Raiders have also announced their partnership with **Intermountain Healthcare** as naming rights to the team's Performance Center and M Resort as the Official Team Headquarters Hotel.

Levy will provide the food and beverage experience across the stadium's concessions, clubs, bars, 128 executive suites, and other premium spaces;

Allegiant will also host the **NCAA Division I University of Nevada Las Vegas Rebels** football team and the new, annual **NCAA Las Vegas Bowl**, in addition to other events including concerts, international sporting events, family shows, festivals and corporate and special events. ■



WALTER P MOORE HAS KEY ROLE IN MAJOR 2020 VENUE PROJECTS

As structural engineer, **Walter P Moore** had a major role in two of the new 2020 North America sports venue projects profiled in this feature.

Globe Life Field, the **MLB Texas Rangers'** new ballpark, is expected to unite fans in Arlington for the coming 2020 season. The estimated \$1.2 billion stadium features a retractable roof, strong exterior facades, and a large glass wall on the north entry of stadium. The roof features ETFE elements which will create a more open feel and bring natural light inside the stadium.

This entry provides a connection to the **Texas Live!** Entertainment District featuring restaurants, retail, and other entertainment venues. In addition to the ability to provide a climate-controlled environment, modern ballpark amenities such as enhanced concessions, kid's zone, suites, loge spaces, field level boxes, and special viewing porches will undoubtedly enhance the fan experience.

Lynn Family Stadium, the new home of **Louisville City Football Club** of the **United Soccer League (USL)**, is an 11,700-seat, soccer-specific stadium in the up-and-coming Butchertown neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky.

Opening in the spring of 2020, the ambitious stadium design reflects the energy and enthusiasm of a community that has embraced the young club during its current run of consecutive USL Cup championships in 2017 and 2018, losing in the 2019 finals to the Salt Lake City Real Monarchs.

The \$65 million stadium features an iconic, copper-clad canopy designed to evoke the rich bourbon culture of the River City and a distinctive sports lighting concept—vertically oriented arrays mounted to variable height "light rods" extending from the canopy tip—that enhances the stadium's dynamic curving form.

Lynn Family Stadium's intimate, 270-degree seating bowl opens to the nearby Ohio River and provides unobstructed views to the downtown Louisville skyline. The main scoreboard at the north end towers above an outdoor beer garden and tiered standing area directly adjacent to the pitch.