

## **Ahmeenah Young**

### **President and Chief Executive Officer** **Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority**

Ahmeenah Young is an accomplished senior executive in the tourism and hospitality industry with outstanding credentials and a proven record of results. Across all of her professional posts she has consistently maintained diligent focus on growth in productivity and made bottom-line profitability a priority. She was appointed President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority in June of 2008.

Young's topline responsibilities include supervision of day-to-day operational activities and facility management of the Pennsylvania Convention Center in accordance with the objectives and goals established by the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia. She is charged with effectively developing and leading all organizational procedures, policies and guidelines to support the Authority's long-range goals and overall mission of standing out as a leader in the convention marketplace.

As president and CEO, Young also recommends and implements all contractual and vendor services, directs all recruiting processes and participates in interviewing, selection and training of PCCA employees according to established guidelines. Her role also oversees marketing, public relations and customer service programs as well as development of budgets, financial policies and fiscal controls for the operation of the PCCA. In addition, Young serves as the PCCA's liaison/representative to Local, Regional and State legislative bodies, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau and other non-governmental agencies and organizations in the convention and trade show industry and local community.

Immediately preceding her appointment as President and CEO, Young served as PCCA's Executive Vice President and General Manager, a role in which she was responsible for the overall management, promotion and operation of the Center, including marketing, booking, advertising, security, production, maintenance, operations, food and beverage, diversity programs, external promotion and community relations.

Before advancing to General Manager, Young was Executive Vice President, External Affairs. In addition to acting as PCCA's local spokesperson and media relations manager, she was also responsible for the daily operations of the affirmative action/diversity/small business program, the center's extensive art collection and program, and its outstanding education and training program.

Young also served as General Manager of Philadelphia's Independence Visitor Center. In that capacity, she was responsible for all visitor services operations, including administration, strategic planning, fiscal planning, and communications with all third party stakeholders. She was also credited with achieving world-class customer service for all visitors and maintaining an exceptionally efficient facility.

Prior to taking on the General Manager role at the Independence Visitor Center, Young served as Vice President of Corporate Diversity for SearchWide, LLC. There, she specialized in recruiting and retaining senior executives and senior managers for the hospitality and tourism industry, municipal governments, museums, cultural institutions, and the transportation industry.

A PCCA veteran, Young also held a number of management positions with the Authority before joining Searchwide, including Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Director of Affirmative Action, Director of Sales and Marketing, and Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

Young currently sits on boards for Sunoco Welcome America!, Temple University's School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Art Sanctuary, MANNA, North Philadelphia Health Systems, Philadelphia Academies, National Forum for Black Public Administrators, Mount Airy USA, and the Philadelphia Airport. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. Previous board affiliations include the African American Museum of Philadelphia and the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition. Young is a former member of the National Association of Black Meeting Planners, the International Association of Assembly Managers, and the National Speakers Association. She served on the Host Committee of the US/African Business Summit and on the Strategic Planning Committee of Professional Convention Management Association.

A native of Philadelphia, Young is a staunch supporter of education, the arts, music, community economic development and entrepreneurship.