



UN*STOPPABLE

PHILADELPHIA



UNSTOPPABLE – Reconnecting Philadelphia with the World

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

11:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

Virtual Meeting Content

Our world as we know it changed dramatically during the past several months. In mid-March the Department of Homeland Security issued new guidelines to mitigate the spread of travel-related cases of coronavirus in the United States. A small number of American airports were designated as “funneling airports,” permitting the entry of people and products arriving from overseas. Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) was not among them. The Philadelphia metropolitan statistical area is the eighth most populous region in the US; the most populous region on the eastern seaboard; and the largest metropolitan area without approved air travel gateway status for transatlantic connectivity— a critical link to the US market. Join the British American Business Council of Greater Philadelphia and the international business community for a time sensitive report, current data, and a forecast of PHL’s status and re-designation as a funneling airport during the coming weeks.

Gregg Caren, President & CEO, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau; James J. Moses, Vice President, PHL Hub, LaGuardia, Boston, JFK and LaGuardia Operations & Premium Guest Services, American Airlines; Gary L. Tomasulo, Managing Director, Corporate Security, American Airlines; Stephanie Wear, Director of Air Service Development & Cargo Services, PHL International Airport; and Edgar Antístenes Vesga-Arias, Executive President and Chief Executive Officer, Philadelphia International Medicine will be our featured panelists. Sylvie Gallier Howard, Acting Commerce Director, City of Philadelphia, will moderate the discussion and lead the speakers through Q&A at the end of the program.

This timely virtual event is pertinent to all private and public entities operating across industry sectors involved in international travel, trade and commerce. Please join us to learn more about PHL’s status as a funneling airport; how it’s affecting Philadelphia’s connectivity to the world; and how it may impact your future operations.

PRESENTED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:





SYLVIE GALLIER HOWARD
ACTING COMMERCE DIRECTOR
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Sylvie is Acting Director for the City of Philadelphia's Department of Commerce. She has been a member of Commerce's leadership team since 2012. She played a lead role in developing Philadelphia's Inclusive Growth strategy as well as the city's Workforce Strategy. Sylvie played a lead role in developing the city's bid to Amazon for the HQ2 search and spearheaded the development of a public-private partnership to develop the region's global identity and elevate Philadelphia's international brand. She has also spearheaded several priority initiatives, such as the launch of Kiva City Philadelphia, a zero-interest micro-business loan program, and the City's successful effort to become the first World Heritage City in the U.S.

Prior to joining government, Sylvie spent her career in the non-profit sector and running her own small business. For six years, Sylvie was the Principal and Founder of Clementine Consulting, providing guidance to non-profits and social enterprises working in areas such as education, social justice, economic development and immigration. Sylvie has also served as the Executive Director of two community-based non-profits in Philadelphia: The Northwest Fund and The Empowerment Group. At the Empowerment Group, Sylvie started Philadelphia's first bilingual Spanish-English entrepreneurship training program.

Sylvie serves on the board of directors of the Global Philadelphia Association and the Fund for the School District of Philadelphia. She has a B.A. in International Relations from Barnard College of Columbia University and an M.A. in Sociology from Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Ecuador (a graduate school started by the United Nations Development Program to promote development in Latin America). Sylvie is fluent in Spanish and French and is the mother of four boys – including twins.



GREGG CAREN
PRESIDENT & CEO
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Gregg is the president and CEO of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) where he oversees the organization's efforts to promote and sell Philadelphia as a premier destination for meetings, conventions, sporting events and overseas travelers. Previously, he served as the Executive Vice President, Sales and Strategic Business Development for ASM Global (formerly SMG), operator of over 350 venues worldwide, including the Pennsylvania Convention Center. He served in numerous senior leadership roles over his 22 years with the company. Gregg began his career with Marriott Hotels and Resorts and has also held leadership positions with convention and entertainment venues in Atlantic City and Valley Forge. He is an alumnus of The Pennsylvania State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management.



JAMES J. MOSES
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Jim leads hub operations for American Airlines in Philadelphia, Boston, JFK, and LaGuardia providing oversight to more than 19,000 team members serving nearly - customers traveling the world daily. In addition, Jim is responsible for American's Premium Guest Services throughout the American Airlines network. During his tenure, he has held a variety of leadership positions in Miami, New York and Boston, previously serving as head of the American hub in Los Angeles.

Jim began his career with American as a flight attendant in 1982. A native of northeastern Pennsylvania, he holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from John Carroll University.



GARY L. TOMASULO
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Gary is the Managing Director for corporate Security for American Airlines. In this role, he leads the airline's corporate security team to include the relationship with industry and all federal agencies focused on security. He is responsible for the airline's domestic and international security programs, investigations, fraud and revenue protection, crew and operations security, and regulatory compliance. Gary represents American Airlines security-related interests and priorities at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Gary also leads American's security and related policy development and advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and at the White House.

Prior to joining American in May 2019, he served at the National Security Council in the White House as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Border and Transportation Security. Gary was responsible for coordinating the Administration's policy on transportation security, including aviation, across the Department of Homeland Security, and other relevant agencies. He also served on the National Security Council during the Obama and Bush Administrations. During his 28 years as a military officer in the Coast Guard, Gary served in a variety of policy, operational and legal assignments. Prior to his most recent service in the White House, Gary was the commander for Sector Charleston, overseeing Coast Guard operations in South Carolina and Georgia.

Gary holds a bachelor of Science degree in Management from the United States Coast Guard Academy, a Juris Doctor degree from Hofstra University School of Law, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management.



STEPHANIE WEAR
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Stephanie is the Director of Air Service Development and Cargo Services, responsible for air service development and cargo portfolios at the airport. She works to attract, retain, and expand air service routes as well as increase cargo volume. Stephanie works within the revenue department by maintaining effective working relationships with carriers, logistical firms, aviation organizations and other airports. She also facilitates corporate and stakeholder relationships that maximize commercial air service operations at Philadelphia, ensuring that PHL thrives as a globally competitive gateway.

Stephanie is a member of the United States Tour Operator Association (USTOA), Associate Board of Directors and the Airports Council International-North America's (ACI-NA) Air Service and Cargo Committees. She lives in the Rittenhouse neighborhood of Philadelphia with her husband and their Labrador retriever. She holds an MBA and a master's degree in marketing and Communications.



EDGAR ANTÍSTENES VESGA-ARIAS
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Edgar is the Executive President and Chief Executive Officer of Philadelphia International Medicine (PIM). He holds a Master's degree in Public Relations and Healthcare Communications from the University of Houston. Prior to joining PIM, Edgar was the director of the department of International Child Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics. There, he developed programs in more than 20 countries, including China, Turkey, Columbia, and others.

Previously, Edgar was the director of business development for international and signature services at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, where he increased the margin for international programs and collaborated with the Houston mayor's office, US Commerce Department and Houston Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He was also the manager for regional development with the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston where he led efforts in marketing and with payers, media, and branding. He supported regions including the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Europe.