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Convention Centers Bounce Back as Cities Borrow for Makeovers.

- **Cincinnati is latest entrant with \$292M bond sale for project**
- **Dallas, Austin, Houston all join 'arms race' to lure meetings**

When it comes to convention centers in the US, bigger isn't just better, it's necessary.

The travel industry is roaring back from a pandemic slump, putting pressure on local governments to ensure their cities are equipped with the best facilities to accommodate swanky concerts, sporting events and conferences.

Nationally, convention attendance rose 20% last year to more than 28 million and the industry contributed \$90 billion to gross domestic product, according to the Center for Exhibition Industry Research. However, attendance still trailed pre-pandemic, 2019 levels by 14%.

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Bloomberg CityLab

By Lauren Coleman-Lochner

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