

From the Atlanta Business Chronicle:

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Philips Arena top venue in U.S.

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Pollstar magazine's ranked Philips Arena, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, the best arena in the United States.

Pollstar magazine's Top 100 Worldwide Arena Venues said Philips Arena in Atlanta, for the first half of the 2009 calendar year, is the No. 1 concert and events venue in the United States, based on attendance figures. The rankings put Philips Arena ahead of traditional larger market venues such as Madison Square Garden in New York City and the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The 2009 rankings also named Philips Arena the No. 7 concert and events venue in the world.

"We are delighted by this year's ranking in Pollstar magazine and are excited about our upcoming concert schedule that includes some of the world's top acts," said Philips Arena President Bob Williams, in a news release. "Over the past 10 years our first class staff has established Philips Arena as the place to play in the Atlanta Market. Philips Arena's consistency of being a top venue shows that fans love to come to a 1st class venue to experience live entertainment."

In April 2009, Philips Arena became the first NBA or NHL arena to achieve LEED certification for an existing building as specified by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).