



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2025 Ohio Chamber Tourism Summit
At the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium Africa Event Center
Thursday, October 16, 2025 from 1pm to 5pm

Ohio Chamber of Commerce Tourism Summit:

1:00 PM – 1:10 PM **Conference Welcome**

1:10 PM - 1:30 PM **Presentation by Jimmy Merkel, CEO & Co-Founder of Rockbridge**

1:30 PM – 2:10 PM **Panel of legislators on supporting Ohio's growing tourism industry**
Moderator: Matt MacLaren, Director of Travel and Tourism at the Ohio Chamber

- Representative Melanie Miller
- Representative Mark Hiner
- Representative Dontavius Jarrells

2:10PM – 2:30PM **The National Veterans Memorial and Museum: Elevating Veterans and Amplifying the Power of Service Everywhere for Everyone**

- Dr. Frederic Bertley, President & CEO of COSI
- Colonel Bill Butler, Acting President of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

2:30pm – 3:15pm **Panel on Marketing Ohio, The Heart of It All**

Moderator: Marty McDonald, President of Fahlgren Mortine

- Ryan Squire, VP Strategic Communications and Brand Marketing, JobsOhio
- Chris Hurtubise, Communications Director, America250 Ohio
- Sarah Wickham, State Tourism Director and Chief Communications & Marketing Officer at the Ohio Department of Development

3:45 PM - 4:00 PM **Brian Harman, SVP of External Affairs at the Columbus Zoo**

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM **Reception and time to tour the Columbus Zoo**

Exhibitor Booths:

- TourismOhio, table and Heart of It All sign – Amy.summers@development.ohio.gov
- America 250-Ohio, table – Chris churtubise@ohiohistory.org
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Jason Jason.fallon@dnr.ohio.gov