

Portland is at an inflection point. It was fairly recently known to be a destination - a vibrant food scene, young people moving in, a bustling downtown. Its reputation has taken a hit. The Moda Center is one of the few venues that reliably still brings people downtown, both pre and post events. If we lose the Blazers we risk entering a death spiral that will be difficult to climb out of. It will further damage our city's reputation. The Women's Final Four will be the last major event awarded to Portland for years to come. We will fall into the category of once thriving cities that have lost their way. Another nail in the coffin. The region did a great job renovating the Portland airport. It has won national acclaim and accolades, well deserved, for a brilliant vision well executed. Let's bring the same visionary spirit to the region's primary event space and jump start the city's return to a vibrant destination for locals and visitors alike.