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**THE PEABODY ORLANDO WINS THE GOLD KEY  
FOR THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

**ORLANDO, FLA. -- AUGUST 4, 2009** - The Peabody Orlando has won the Gold Key Award of *Meetings & Conventions* magazine for the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. "Meeting professionals have relied on the Gold Key mark to symbolize outstanding meeting facilities worldwide for over three decades," said Lori Cioffi, editor-in-chief of the publication.

Since opening its doors for business on November 1, 1986, The Peabody Orlando has maintained its legendary dedication to providing meeting planners and their clients, state-of-the-art facilities, top-quality F+B/catering and banquets, and the best possible guest services through its registered trademarked Peabody Service Excellence® culture.

"This is a gratifying re-affirmation of The Peabody Orlando's unremitting commitment to providing meeting planners and their clients the ultimate meeting experience: flawless, memorable, meetings," said Tony Aslanian, the hotel's director of sales and marketing. "It is a credit to Eddie Maddox, director of catering and convention services, and to Marshall Kelberman, rooms director, that the operations, catering, and service philosophies over the past twenty years have once again earned one of the industry's most coveted awards. Perhaps most important is the fact that this award was won even though the hotel was in the first year of its monumental \$450-million expansion. Kudos to all associates of The Peabody Orlando for their continuing dedication to ensuring our guests enjoy the maximum Peabody experience."

The annual Gold Key Award of *Meetings & Conventions* magazine is one of the most important measures of The Peabody Orlando's success, because it is voted upon by meeting planners who have experienced the hotel's services and facilities first-hand, and can vouch for them. Readership of *Meetings & Conventions* magazine represents some 70,000 corporate, incentive and association meeting planners, who vote for those hotels that surpassed their expectations in all aspects of the meeting planning process during the previous year.

This year, meeting planners based their selection of Gold Key Award winners on several criteria: overall attitude of the hotel's meeting staff; quality of function and meeting rooms; availability and quality of guest services; quality of food and beverage service; proficiency and ease of handling reservations; availability of A/V and other technical/support equipment, and possible range of recreational facilities on- and off-property.

“Of keen interest to today’s meeting planners is the knowledge that a meetings venue they are considering for their clients’ events is fully-engaged in providing “green” hospitality, and the use of sustainable resources,” said Marshall Kelberman, The Peabody Orlando’s “Green Czar.” The Department of Environmental Protection’s Florida’s Green Lodging Program has awarded the hotel its coveted Green Palm designation.

A further example of The Peabody’s “green” initiatives is its new partnership with Clean The World, an Orlando-based, national charity that seeks donations from the US hotel industry of its “gently used” soaps, shampoos and lotions. “Hundreds of thousands of tons of these hotel products end up in landfills every day across the nation. Now, these products are sterilized and re-formed into bars of soap to help engender hand-washing among some of the poorest countries on earth, from Haiti to Africa, thus saving millions of children from diarrheal and respiratory diseases.”

The Peabody Orlando is a *Mobil Travel Guide* Four-Star, AAA Four Diamond property of Peabody Hotels within the portfolio of Peabody Hotel Group, and is a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts. For more information, visit [www.peabodyorlando.com](http://www.peabodyorlando.com)