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Live Nation to refurb Bayfront Park amphitheater

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After years of sometimes stagnant debate among Miami officials over how to improve two prominent downtown parks, one of them is getting a partial face-lift, thanks to concert promotion giant Live Nation.

Live Nation announced Tuesday that it had secured a long-term contract from the city and the Bayfront Park Management Trust to run the 6,000-capacity amphitheater.

Bayfront Park sits along Biscayne Boulevard, bordered to the north and south by Bayside Marketplace and the Hotel InterContinental, respectively.

Perhaps most important to the look of the park, which offers panoramic views of Biscayne Bay and the downtown Miami skyline, Live Nation has agreed to renovate the venue.

A joint news release from Live Nation and the city says the concert venue will be refurbished ``with state-of-the-art production capabilities."

The statement also says that modern seating will replace the amphitheater's old benches, luxury boxes are in the works and facility and menu improvements are coming to the food and beverage service.

The amphitheater will close soon for the rehab work, but is expected to reopen in June 2009.

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