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The Portico Group Announces Public Opening of Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – *Honolulu, Hawaii*: The Portico Group is thrilled to announce the upcoming public opening of the new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and surrounding campus. Grand opening events will take place on December 7, 2010.

The Portico Group, a Seattle-based interdisciplinary design firm, provided comprehensive design services to the National Park Service and the U.S. Navy for the replacement of the existing visitor center at Pearl Harbor (originally built in 1980). The six new open-air buildings, on track to achieve LEED[®] Silver certification, will more effectively utilize the Hawaiian trade winds for passive cooling, and better serve the National Park Service in telling the story of the site to its 1.5 million annual visitors.

“I could not be more pleased with the design and construction of the new Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center. It is functioning as envisioned and positive comments are received daily from the visitors,” noted George E. Sullivan, Chairman of the Board for Pacific Historic Parks. “We are anxious for the remaining two exhibit buildings to be completed and the formal opening, led by Pearl Harbor Survivors, on December 7, 2010.”

The Memorial and its supporting facilities are included in the *World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument*, named by President George W. Bush in December of 2008. Other sites in the Pearl Harbor area, as well as in California and the Pacific Islands, are also designated as part of the national monument. On December 7, 2008, groundbreaking ceremonies commemorated the 67th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The first phase of the project opened in March 2010.

Background

The USS *Arizona* Memorial and Pearl Harbor Visitor Center honors the heroism and sacrifice rendered in the face of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, when more than 2,000 Americans were killed. It provides orientation to the site and its history, guiding visitors to the boats that will carry them out to view the battleship. The stunning Memorial, designed by Alfred Preis and built in 1962, stands over the ship that was sunk at its mooring, marking the final resting place for many of its 1,177 crewmen killed that day.

The Memorial has become the most popular visitor attraction in the state of Hawaii, and the annual visitation of ~1.5 million is more than double the carrying capacity of the original 1980 shore-side visitor center. The existing facility has suffered from crowding, structural deterioration and insufficient curatorial and educational space, all of which



contribute to the need to expand and replace the visitor center. The Memorial itself will remain while its supporting visitor center facilities are renovated and rebuilt.

Construction on the new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center was awarded to Watts Constructors (Honolulu) in September of 2008, slated to last approximately two years. Construction has been phased to ensure continuous public access to the site.

Project Description

A new campus: The design of the new visitor center creates a campus-like facility, expanding the areas for visitor gathering, memorial ceremonies and museum exhibits. The project includes the renovation of two orientation theaters and the improvement of visitor amenities. It also provides efficient new administrative areas for park staff. As visitors walk the site, the Memorial itself is never far from view, providing a constant reminder of the park's solemn purpose.

A powerful story: The iconic events of December 7, 1941, which marked the United States' entrance into WWII, are retold in the new visitor center's exhibits – which honor the courage and sacrifices made in Pearl Harbor on that day of infamy. Central to the exhibit storyline and design are the first-hand accounts of survivors, which taken together reveal a deeper and more personal story of the spirit and valor shown at Pearl Harbor. Set within a larger, yet balanced, narrative of America's involvement in WWII, these survivor accounts shed new light on an important chapter of U.S. history.

A challenging site: The design parameters included some challenges, such as extremely poor foundation soils on the site, significant security considerations, and the requirement that the existing facility remain operable throughout construction. The task of the design team has been to meet these challenges while providing for a state-of-the-art visitor experience.

Sustainability and accessibility – a flagship approach: Incorporating universal accessibility and sustainable design principals, the project has been designed to achieve LEED® Silver certification. Passive cooling, use of recycled and recyclable materials, extensive shading systems and energy-efficient equipment and fixtures contribute to the “green” qualities of this important landmark. By orienting the buildings' roofs and walls toward the trade winds, visitor comfort is maintained with minimal use of air conditioning. Exhibits are designed using innovative display techniques to protect the fragile, valuable artifacts that highlight the powerful story.

A highly collaborative project: While the Navy owns the land and manages the construction process, NPS is the operator of the visitor center and will occupy the facility. Other agencies and organizations, including Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association), also participated in the design process and have been active in the funding and publicizing of the project. The building and site design team



included 14 Hawaiian and West Coast firms, while the exhibits were designed by AldrichPears Associates, a Vancouver, British Columbia-based firm.

Location

Honolulu, Hawaii (Pearl Harbor)

Sponsoring and Participating Agencies

National Park Service (NPS)

Department of the Navy (NAVFAC PAC)

Pacific Historic Parks (PHP), formerly Arizona Memorial Museum Association (AMMA)

Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund

Project Size:

Total Project site area 11.0 Acres

Phase 1 (opened March 2010) 5.7 Acres

Phase 2 (to open December 2010) 5.3 Acres

Total new built area, shaded or enclosed: 54,900 SF

New construction, interior space: 18,700 SF

*Entry, retail, ticketing, exhibits, visitor services
and administration*

New exhibit area 8,000 SF

Renovated theater buildings: 5,200 SF

Two theaters seating 150 each

Design Team:

Project Lead:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

The Portico Group

Seattle, Washington

Mike Hamm, ASLA, Project Director

Alissa Rupp, AIA, LEED AP, Project Manager

Bill Hacker, Assoc. AIA, Senior Designer

Charles Mayes, AIA, Principal

Ed Mah, ASLA, Landscape Architect

Kara Weaver, LEED AP, Landscape Designer

Nonda Trimis, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP,

Architectural Designer

Associated Local Architects

Mason Architects Inc.

Honolulu, Hawaii

Glenn Mason, Principal

Warren Lau, Project Manager



Green Building Strategies	Paladino & Co. Inc. <i>Seattle, Washington</i>
Civil Engineers & Landscape Support	Belt Collins Hawaii Ltd. <i>Honolulu, Hawaii</i>
Structural Engineers	Baldrige & Associates Inc. <i>Honolulu, Hawaii</i>
Electrical Engineers	CB Engineers, Inc. <i>Bellevue, Washington</i>
Mechanical Engineers	Mechanical Engineering of Hawaii <i>Honolulu, Hawaii</i>
Geotechnical Engineers	Geolabs, Inc. <i>Honolulu, Hawaii</i>
Acoustical Engineers	BRC Acoustics & Technology Consulting <i>Seattle, Washington</i>
Visitor Circulation Analysis	ORCA Consulting <i>Braselton, Georgia</i>
Accessible Design Consultant	Space Options, Inc. <i>Kula Maui, Hawaii</i>
Cost Estimating	Cost Engineering of Hawaii, Inc. <i>Honolulu, Hawaii</i>
Cost Estimating/Quality Assurance	Bluewater Project Management <i>Edmonds, Washington</i>
Specification Coordinator	Computype Hawaii <i>Honolulu, Hawaii</i>
Exhibit Design	AldrichPears Associates <i>Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada</i> Phil Aldrich, Principal-in-Charge
Exhibit Lighting Design	EOS Lightmedia <i>Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada</i>
AV System Design	Acumen Engineering <i>Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada</i>
Microclimate Design	Keepsafe Systems <i>Toronto, Ontario, Canada</i>
Acoustics	BRC Acoustics <i>Seattle, Washington</i>
Contractors:	
General Contractor:	Watts Constructors <i>Honolulu, Hawaii</i>
Exhibit Fabricator:	Color-Ad Signs and Exhibits

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Arlington, Virginia

Project Costs:

Overall project campaign: \$52,000,000
Project construction costs: \$32,680,300
Exhibit fabrication costs: \$3,900,000

Project Contacts:

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