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PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM

art history science achievement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PEORIA RIVERFRONT MUSEUM GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010**

A groundbreaking celebration for the block building project was held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7 on the site near the intersection of Main and Water Streets.

“The Peoria Riverfront Museum (PRM) board thanks all who participated in this effort over the years, the Peoria County Board, Peoria City Council, Caterpillar Inc and Lakeview Museum board for approving the agreements necessary for work to begin. We also want to thank everyone who voted for this project, those who have donated generously and the thousands of people who have shared their time, talents and ideas to make the museum possible,” said Dave Ransburg, PRM chairman.

Speakers at the groundbreaking included City of Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis, Peoria County Board Chairman Tom O'Neill, Caterpillar CEO Doug Oberhelman and Peoria Riverfront Museum President & CEO Jim Richerson. Peoria Riverfront Museum Board Chairman Dave Ransburg served as Master of Ceremonies.

“We’re very excited. The Peoria Riverfront Museum and Caterpillar Experience will be one of the biggest—if not THE biggest—projects ever developed in Peoria. It will provide great energy to downtown Peoria, increase tourism and complement the offerings of the Peoria Civic Center,” said Ryan Beasley, PRM vice-chairman.

Construction of the garage will begin in October, after site preparation and demolition is complete. The Peoria Riverfront Museum construction will begin in January 2011. The Caterpillar Experience construction will begin in the spring of 2011. The Peoria Riverfront Museum and Caterpillar Visitor Center are slated to open in the fall, 2012.

The Peoria Riverfront Museum is a collaborative effort of Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences, Caterpillar, Peoria Historical Society, African American Hall of Fame Museum, Peoria Regional Museum Society, Heartland Foundation, and the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). Some of the features of this facility include a digital 3-D large screen theater, state-of-the-art planetarium, Illinois River Encounter gallery, history and art exhibits for all ages, children’s Discovery Worlds and the IHSA Peak Performance Center.

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