

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Peoria Riverfront Museum elects inaugural board and officers**

PEORIA, Ill. — The Peoria Riverfront Museum recently elected its first Board of Directors and selected officers and committee chairpersons. The board was formed to govern and administer the 86,000-square-foot museum in downtown Peoria.

Officers are Dave Ransburg, chairman; Ryan Beasley, vice chairman; and Andy Herrera, secretary/treasurer. Committee chairpersons are Jane Converse, marketing and communication; Dan Daly, building and grounds; Pat Barton, education and exhibition; Mike McCord, development; and Bernie Drake, collections. Jim Richerson was elected as the Peoria Riverfront Museum's first president.

"This project has truly been a community effort, with thousands of people and dozens of organizations involved in the last decade," said Ransburg. "Peoria County voters told us at the polls that they want this museum to become a reality, and the dedicated group of volunteers I have the privilege of serving with on the board is committed to help make this happen."

The \$77.2M million Peoria Riverfront Museum is being funded through private and public sources. In 2009 Peoria County voters approved a one-quarter of one percent sales tax (¼%) for up to 20 years to help fund the museum, taking the project from a decade-long dream to a reality.

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). The facility will feature a digital 3-D IMAX Theatre, 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.

Next steps for the new board include finalizing the redevelopment agreement for the museum block and executing the IMAX contract, both of which are scheduled to be completed in July. Groundbreaking for the parking deck is expected to begin later this summer. The board will also assist in closing the remaining private funding gap and will assist in finalization of various aspects of the construction plans and operating agreements.

In addition to the officers and committee chairpersons, the 23-member board includes: Tom Bardwell, Dave Bozeman, Kevin Colgan, Dr. Marty Hickman, Frank Ierulli, Sally Johnson, Joan Krupa, Dr. Rod Lorenz, Rosemary McCullough, John Parks, Sally Snyder, Jamie Stevenson, Dr. Vicky Stewart, Sally Stone and Jim Vergon.

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