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Zaha Hadid's Burnham Pavilion Open to Public *Bold structure on display in Millennium Park*

CHICAGO – August 4, 2009 – The much anticipated Burnham Pavilion by Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA) of London, UK, has officially opened to the public in Millennium Park. The pavilion is located next to the UNStudio pavilion, which opened to the public on June 19. Both are located on the park's Chase Promenade south.

More than 7,000 pieces of aluminum - no two alike - had to be individually bent and welded to create its curvilinear form. Then thousands of yards of fabric had to be custom tailored and tightly fit onto the interior and exterior aluminum-tube structure. This first-of-its kind installation stretched the limits of all involved – as a Burnham venue properly should – and its fabrication took longer than the original contractor expected.

“This is an artistic achievement of global proportions,” said Burnham Plan Centennial Committee executive director Emily J. Harris. “It is fabulous. Special thanks go to Fabric Images of Elgin for jumping in to complete this project as envisioned by Zaha Hadid.”

Speaking from her firm's offices in London, Zaha Hadid said, “The pavilion is a classic vehicle for architectural manifestos because their function is not as restrictive as that of a museum or other building. This allows the architectural concepts of the pavilion to dominate.

“Fabric is both a traditional and a high-tech material whose form is directly related to the forces applied to it – creating beautiful geometries that are never arbitrary. I find this very exciting,” said Ms. Hadid, the first female winner of the Pritzker Prize for Architecture (2004), who plans to visit Chicago in September.

The ZHA pavilion's unique curvilinear geometries required state-of-the-art fabric technologies executed by Fabric Images. Each piece of fabric was individually sewn and tensioned between the aluminum ribs.

Every evening, the inner fabric's curving skin serves as the “screen” for a sound-and-video installation by artist Thomas Gray that impressionistically explores how the Chicago region has transformed during the past 100 years, and asks people to examine their dreams for the future. The creative multi-channel sound track was created by Lou Mallozzi of Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago.



Both the interior and exterior surfaces of the pavilion are bathed in ever-changing lighting designed by Dear Productions.

The two Burnham Pavilions by world-renowned architects, Zaha Hadid and UNStudio's Ben van Berkel serve as focal points for the future-looking centennial of the 1909 *Plan of Chicago*. Their high visibility directs the public's attention to the hundreds of exhibits, events, and other activities presented by more than 250 Centennial Program Partners in the three-state metro area.

The privately funded pavilions were commissioned by the Burnham Plan Centennial Committee working in close collaboration with the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the Art Institute of Chicago, and Millennium Park Inc. Both pavilions were designed and built to be deconstructed and their materials re-used following the exhibit's closing October 31. The Zaha Hadid pavilion is recyclable and can be reconstructed for installation elsewhere.

The pavilions site is augmented by a kiosk for the public to engage in "inventing the future" of the metropolitan Chicago region. An interactive touch-screen installation let's people choose from various scenarios of the choices currently facing regional planners, and then see animations of the consequences of their choices. This will help shape the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) *GoTo2040* plan to direct regional development for the next 30 years. The kiosk also shows visitors numerous other on-going Burnham Plan Centennial exhibits within walking distance of the pavilions.

About Millennium Park

Millennium Park, managed and programmed by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 24.5-acre park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features are the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; the contemporary Lurie Garden designed by the team of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. Since opening in July 2004, Millennium Park has hosted more than 16 million people, making it one of the most popular destinations in Chicago.

About The Burnham Plan Centennial

The Burnham Plan Centennial includes more than 250 program partners from the three-state region spanning from Kenosha, Wis., through DeKalb, Ill., to Michigan City, Ind. In honor of Daniel Burnham's 1909 *Plan of Chicago*, this Centennial year is stirring a region-wide community to action, working to build the best quality of life for people and planet alike. Our region's community foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, provided leadership funding for the Burnham Plan Centennial, and is joined by the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts as founding sponsors. Organizational and staff support for the Burnham Plan Centennial Committee is provided by Chicago Metropolis 2020.



The Pavilions are privately funded, with support from Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley M. Dixon, Jamee and Marshall Field, Margot and Thomas Pritzker, Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan and The Crown Family.

Corporate pavilion sponsors include British Airways, ArcelorMittal, Marmon/Keystone Corporation (a member of The Marmom Group of companies), as well as the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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