



## MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE MOVES FORWARD WITH EXPANSION BY SELECTING BALFOUR BEATTY AS GENERAL CONTRACTOR OF VICTORY PARK FACILITY

### *Museum unveils building construction team; expects to break ground by year's end*

**DALLAS, TEXAS (May 20, 2009)** – Demonstrating that plans are “all systems go” to build a new facility in Dallas’ Victory Park, Museum of Nature & Science officials selected **Balfour Beatty Construction** as the general contractor and announced more key members of the project’s construction team. Groundbreaking for the 160,000-square-foot museum, which will be named the Perot Museum of Nature & Science, is slated for late 2009. Completion is expected by early 2013.

“We’re at almost 80% of our fundraising goal, despite the economic slowdown, because people recognize math and science education is a core need, a requirement for America to compete on a global scale,” said Nicole Small, CEO of the Museum of Nature & Science. “Announcing Balfour Beatty, an internationally renowned firm with a stellar reputation, and an equally talented construction team is the next step in getting this exciting project underway.”

Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne of Morphosis, the building will be constructed on a 4.7-acre site at the northwest corner of Woodall Rodgers Freeway and Field Street adjacent to Victory Park. The facility will include environmentally sustainable features and is envisioned as a dynamic environment with interactive displays and educational galleries.

The structure will complement the Museum’s existing Fair Park facilities and allow the Museum to better accomplish its mission to “inspire minds through nature and science” by showcasing a wider spectrum of its valuable collections, incorporating modern technology, hosting world-class traveling exhibitions, and expanding its educational programs. Upon completion, the state-of-the-art Museum is expected to help revitalize the economy in downtown Dallas.

“The Museum of Nature & Science has done incredible work with its educational programs and exhibitions, and I am excited that Balfour Beatty Construction has this opportunity to help the museum fulfill its mission and enrich our community,” said Robert Van Cleave, Chairman and CEO of Balfour Beatty Construction.

Over the past 35 years, Balfour Beatty Construction has built more than 13 million square feet of public-assembly projects throughout the United States, including museums such as the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA; the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, VA; the Dallas Museum of Art in Dallas, TX; and the Museum of Science and History in Jacksonville, FL.

The project team also includes **Good, Fulton & Farrell**, who, in addition to serving as the local architect and sustainability consultant, will handle the City of Dallas coordination, zoning matters and Fair Park studies. Other team members are **JAMA and Datum** as the structural engineers; **BuroHappold** to handle mechanical, electrical and plumbing; and **URS** (formerly Dallas-based Lopez Garcia Group) to provide civil engineering services. Completing the team are **Hillwood Development Company** as development manager, TalleyAssociates as landscape architect, **Terracon** to handle Geotech and **DeShazo Tang** to handle traffic design and management.

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Fundraising for the Expansion Project Campaign continues to gain momentum. At the close of 2008 the Museum announced that gifts had exceeded \$115-million. Select gifts include a \$50-million gift made by the Perot children in honor of their parents, Margot and H. Ross Perot; \$10-million gifts from Hunt Petroleum, the Hoglund Foundation and Family, The Rees-Jones Foundation, and T. Boone Pickens; \$5-million gifts from former Texas Governor William P. Clements and Deedie and Rusty Rose; and \$2.5 million from the Corrigan Family.

***About the Museum of Nature & Science***

*The Museum of Nature & Science – the result of a unique merger in 2006 between the Dallas Museum of Natural History, The Science Place and the Dallas Children's Museum – is a non-profit educational organization located in Dallas' Fair Park. In support of its mission to inspire minds through nature and science, the museum delivers exciting, engaging and innovative visitor experiences through its education, exhibition, and research and collections programming for children, students, teachers, families and life-long learners. The facility also includes the TI Founders IMAX® Theater and a cutting-edge digital planetarium. The Museum of Nature & Science is supported in part by funds from the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, the Texas Commission on the Arts and EDS. To learn more about the Museum of Nature & Science, please visit [www.natureandscience.org](http://www.natureandscience.org).*

***About Balfour Beatty Construction***

*Balfour Beatty Construction has been a leader in the U.S. commercial construction industry for 76 years, providing general contracting, at-risk construction management, design-build, preconstruction, public/private and turnkey services for clients nationwide. The company employs 1,600 professionals and is part of London-based Balfour Beatty plc, a leading international engineering, construction, and investment business exceeding \$16 billion in annual revenues. For more information, visit [www.balfourbeattyus.com](http://www.balfourbeattyus.com).*

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