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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY SELECTS FIVE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARCHITECTURE FIRMS AS FINALISTS FOR NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

NEW MUSEUM TO BE CORNERSTONE OF EXPOSITION PARK DEVELOPMENT AND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE HEART OF LOS ANGELES

April 2, 2002 - Los Angeles, CA. - The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, one of the leading institutions of its kind in the country, is moving forward with an innovative building project that will combine new construction with portions of its historically significant structures, in the process completely restoring the Museum's original 1913 beaux-arts-inspired building. With dynamic installations and programming that integrate natural and cultural history, the new Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will maintain its historic position at the heart of the city's Exposition Park while serving as a crossroads integrating Downtown Los Angeles with the surrounding communities.

In a unanimous decision, the Museum's Board of Trustees announced today the selection of five innovative and widely respected architectural firms as design finalists for the phased building project, which will total approximately 500,000 square feet upon completion. The selected architects are, in alphabetical order: David Chipperfield Architects (London); Foster and Partners (London), Herzog & de Meuron (Basel); Steven Holl Architects (New York); and Machado and Silvetti Associates (Boston).

"By redesigning our buildings and exhibitions, we will be able to accommodate our growing audiences, collections and programming. These five firms have all demonstrated that they are responsive to our vision and have the experience and ingenuity to create a dynamic and evocative new cultural institution. The new Museum will respect the historic integrity of our original building while helping to redefine the architectural landscape of Los Angeles," said Jane Pisano, President and Director of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

"We are confident that with any of these superb architects, we will be able to fulfill our mission, which is to inspire wonder, discovery and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds. And we'll do this in a way that enhances Exposition Park as common ground for all of the communities of Los Angeles, connecting people and the environment across generations."

The architects are scheduled to meet with Museum officials and tour the site this month, and in May 2002 will present relevant past projects and discuss their conceptual design approach to the Natural History Museum project with the Museum's Architectural Selection Committee. The final selection of the architect will be made in summer 2002, when a local Executive Architect also will be selected. An exhibition designer will be announced shortly thereafter.

Completion of the Master Plan for the new Museum is projected for 2003, with the unveiling of the schematic design slated for 2004. The Museum is scheduled to break ground in 2006, with a projected first-phase completion date of 2009. The preliminary first-phase project budget is in the range of \$100 million in construction costs (excluding exhibitions), with a total budget of \$200-300 million.

Members of the Museum's Architecture Screening Committee made their short list recommendation to the Board of Trustees, following a six-month open process, when the Committee reviewed the work of 70 architectural firms around the world, including four Pritzker Prize winners. The Museum's Selection and Screening Committees consist primarily of Museum leadership and board members, including architects. A number of advisors experienced in the process also were consulted.

The new Museum project proposes the reconstruction of the existing 410,000-square-foot building, including the selective replacement of portions of the structure and the preservation and renovation of the remaining historic portions, including the nationally registered original Museum building. The design is intended to optimize accessibility to the Museum's expansive and diverse collections and research resources that include more than 33 million specimens and artifacts covering 4.5 billion years of Earth and human history. In addition, 80,000 square feet of offsite facilities will be relocated to the Museum's 14-acre site in Exposition Park.

"After carefully considering a number of other sites for relocation, we are committed to staying in Exposition Park and contributing to the rejuvenation of this historic area, which already has several major new building and expansion projects underway," said Ann Muscat, Executive Vice President and Project Director for the new Museum. "This is an exciting time to be in Downtown Los Angeles, and it is our goal to give back to our community with a world-class museum of natural and cultural history."

Architect Finalists

David Chipperfield Architects, Foster and Partners, Herzog & de Meuron, Steven Holl Architects and Machado and Silvetti Associates Inc. have each received widespread recognition and awards in recent years for projects around the world that have set new precedents in contemporary architectural design. Each of these firms is capable of meeting the design goals established by the Natural History Museum: creating landmark architecture, melding historic with contemporary architecture; showcasing sustainable design principles, integrating interior and exterior to inspire connections between individuals, community and planet; connecting with the historic Exposition Park and its

urban context, and helping to create a new model for natural history museums worldwide. The candidates also have been selected for their rigorous intellectual approach to design, their inclination to allow form to follow content, and their track records with projects of similar complexity and size.

David Chipperfield Architects, established in 1984, is an international practice that has established considerable experience working on projects ranging from commissions for furniture to large-scale urban proposals in the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, Japan, Italy, Spain and the United States. The practice employs 100 people internationally in studios in London, Berlin, New York, and Milan.

In recent years the practice has been commissioned to design a number of significant museum projects. In 1997, David Chipperfield Architects were appointed as architects for the reconstruction of the Neues Museum and the New Entrance Building on Berlin's Museum Island and in 1998 were appointed as lead master-planners for the overall Museum Island complex.

Completed museum projects in the United Kingdom include the award-winning River and Rowing Museum at Henley-on-Thames and the reorganization and refurbishment of the Central Hall and Plant Galleries at the Natural History Museum in London. Museum projects currently under development include the Figge Arts Center commissioned by the Davenport Museum of Art in Iowa, the Museum of Modern Literature in Germany, the 'City of Cultures' Museum on the former Ansaldo factory site in Milan and a new Natural History Museum in Verona, Italy. The practice is also designing several other public and cultural projects internationally.

Foster and Partners, founded in 1967, is an international architecture and design practice with offices in London, Berlin, Singapore and San Francisco. Led by Lord Norman Foster, the firm has received over 260 awards and citations for design excellence, including the Pritzker Prize, and won 58 national and international competitions.

Projects range in scale from master plans for regenerating and expanding cities to the design of buildings, interior design, furniture and product design, corporate graphics and exhibitions. With major projects in the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain and Saudi Arabia, recent designs include the Great Court at the British Museum in London, the New German Parliament, Reichstag in Berlin and the Center for Clinical Sciences Research at Stanford University in California.

The office has completed many museum and gallery projects, including the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, the Sackler Gallery at the Royal Academy of Art in London, the addition to the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, the Carré d'Art in Nîmes, France, the Design Centre in Essen, Germany and the American Air Museum in Duxford. The firm also recently unveiled its master plan design for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Herzog & de Meuron was founded in 1978 by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron. Winners of the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2001, the firm also has received the Award for Architecture from the Akademie der Künste, Berlin, the Deutscher Kritikerpreis, one of the most prestigious architecture awards in Europe, the Max Beckmann Award and the Rolf Schock Prize for the Visual Arts.

The practice has major projects in England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Japan, as well as Switzerland. Most recently known for their critically acclaimed design for Tate Modern, which transformed the Bankside Power Station in London, the office also is currently working on several major projects in the United States, including the New de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, the expansion of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Kramlich Residence and Media Collection in Napa Valley, California, and the soon to be opened Prada Headquarters in New York.

Other projects include the Dominus Winery in Yountville, California, the Museum Küppersmühle - Grothe Collection in Duisburg, the Laban Dance Center in London, the Forum 2004 Building and Plaza in Barcelona, the new Allianz Arena - Soccer Stadium for Munich, as well as the new Prada Flagship Store in Tokyo, to be opened in spring 2003.

Steven Holl Architects, founded in 1976, has worked both nationally and overseas on a variety of public and private works. The firm has been recognized internationally with numerous awards, publications and exhibitions for quality and excellence in design, including the National AIA Honor award for the new Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland, the 2001 Grande Medailles d'Or, Academie d'Architecture, France and TIME Magazine's "America's Best Architect" in 2001.

The office has extensive experience in the arts (including museum, gallery and exhibition design), campus and educational facilities and residential work. Current and recent projects include the Bellevue Art Museum in Washington, the Chapel of St. Ignatius at Seattle University in Washington, the Simmons Hall undergraduate residence at M.I.T. in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the School of Architecture at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Other projects involve retail design, office design, public utilities and master planning, as well as the renovation and expansion of historically important structures, including the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., the Higgins Hall School of Architecture at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and the Sarphatistraat Offices in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

The Boston firm of Machado and Silvetti Associates, Inc. was incorporated in 1985 by Jorge Silvetti and Rodolfo Machado, who have been in association since 1974. The internationally recognized firm is known for distinctive urban spaces and unique works of architecture in the United States and abroad. The practice has received eight Progressive Architecture citations, two national honor awards from the American Institute of

Architects, as well as the First Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Since 1996, Mr. Silveti has also served as a juror for the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

Among the firm's completed projects are the Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park in Battery Park City, New York, a dormitory and comprehensive master plan for Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey, a museum for the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, a branch of the Boston Public Library, and a master plan for the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame. Ongoing design work includes a center for comparative archaeology at the Getty Villa in Malibu, California, a master plan for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, as well as projects for Harvard University (where Mr. Silveti chairs the Graduate School of Design's Department of Architecture), Rice University, the University of Virginia, and the American University of Beirut.

Exposition Park

The new Museum will be the architectural and cultural cornerstone of historic Exposition Park - the 160-acre public recreation area located just south of Downtown. The Park is also the home of the California Science Center, the California African-American Museum, the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Exposition Park Intergenerational Center, the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena and the 15-acre Rose Garden. The Park borders the campus of the University of Southern California on its northern edge and is surrounded on the other three sides by diverse residential communities.

A Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Exposition Park was created in 1992 by Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership. During the past 10 years more than \$450 million has been committed to fund various projects that contribute to the ongoing revitalization of Exposition Park. Projects include the recently reopened Frank Gehry-designed California Aerospace Museum of the California Science Center and architect Thom Mayne's conversion of the Exposition Park Armory into a K-5 elementary school and center for science learning for the LAUSD and California Science Center.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Founded in 1913, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is the largest museum of natural and cultural history in the western United States. The Museum's world-class research and collections programs center on objects and specimens relating to 21 disciplines, including history, anthropology, mineral sciences, invertebrate and vertebrate zoology, invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology and botany. The Museum's unique mission combines cultural and natural science collections that allow for in-depth exploration of the relationships between humankind and the environment.

The Museum's 130,000 square feet of public galleries - which include halls devoted to gems and minerals, extant and extinct mammals, dinosaurs, birds, marine life, Native American and pre-Columbian cultures and U.S. and Southwest history - and its innovative on- and off-site educational programs serve more than 750,000 students, families and adults each year.

The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard. The Museum is open seven days a week, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$2 for children 5-12 and \$5.50 for students/seniors. Children under 5 are free. Groups of 10 or more can receive discounted rates by calling (213) 763-3218. For 24-hour Museum information please call (213) 763-DINO or visit the Museum's website at www.nhm.org

The Natural History Family of Museums includes the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits and the William S. Hart Museum, together serving more than 1 million people annually.

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