



## KENTUCKY STATE FAIR BOARD

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER RENOVATION DESIGN TEAM SELECTED

**LOUISVILLE, KY (Nov. 20, 2014)** – The Kentucky State Finance and Administration Cabinet has selected EOP and HOK Architects to be the lead design team for the renovation of the Kentucky International Convention Center. The announcement was made today at the Kentucky State Fair Board’s monthly meeting.

A selection committee with members from the Kentucky Division of Engineering and Contract Administration in the Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Kentucky State Fair Board selected the firms as consultants for design and architectural services.

HOK Chicago and Lexington, KY-based EOP have begun discussions with staff and officials from the convention center, Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Louisville Metro Government, clients and vendors to help determine the project’s scope and design.

Clifford “Rip” Rippetoe, president and CEO of the Kentucky State Fair Board, called HOK and EOP “world-class design firms. The buzz around this project is exciting for the landscape of downtown Louisville and Kentucky as a whole, and we look forward to the many steps to come.”

The \$180 million project will increase contiguous exhibit space from 146,000 to approximately 230,000 square feet and renovate the existing facility – all within the center’s existing footprint.

According to Fair Board and city officials, the renovation and expansion of the downtown convention center will help retain events that are outgrowing the current building and will create space to attract and accommodate new events that have been unable to fit into the current facility due to a lack of adequate space.

Karen Williams, President and CEO of the Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau noted that the additional contiguous exhibit space and the addition of 1,500 new hotel rooms in the downtown area “provides our sales team with product and inventory to potentially increase new business bookings by 25 percent.”

With 23 offices worldwide, HOK is a global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm. For five consecutive years, DesignIntelligence, an architecture industry research journal, has

ranked HOK as a leader in sustainable and high-performance design. HOK has previously worked on the Anaheim Convention Center expansion, MGM Grand Hotel Convention Center and Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

Based in Lexington, EOP Architects has completed projects in more than 30 states. In Kentucky, those include the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet building, the Rolex Stadium at the Kentucky Horse Park and the Somerset Airport. In 2010, EOP received the American Institute of Architects Kentucky Firm of the Year Award.

The convention center opened in 1977 north of Jefferson Street along Third Street. It underwent a previous renovation in 2000 that cost more than \$70 million. The Kentucky International Convention Center is located in the heart of downtown Louisville and with the improvements, is expected to contribute \$53 million annually in economic impact.

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#### **ABOUT THE KENTUCKY STATE FAIR BOARD**

The Kentucky State Fair Board is comprised of gubernatorial appointments, members of university administrations, representing associations and leaders from around the state. The Board operates two properties, the Kentucky Exposition Center and Kentucky International Convention Center. The Kentucky State Fair Board accounts for \$460 million annually in economic impact for the community and Commonwealth.