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Bell Harbor International Conference Center Earns EnviroStars Four-Star Rating

Proactive Environmental Sustainability Earns Conference Center High Marks

SEATTLE – April 21, 2008 – Bell Harbor International Conference Center on Seattle’s waterfront has earned a four-star rating from EnviroStars, a nationally recognized program that certifies businesses that reduce, recycle, and properly manage hazardous waste.

Certified EnviroStars businesses are given a [two-to-five star rating](#) based on their commitment to reducing hazardous waste. The higher the star rating, the more proactive the business has been in protecting the environment.

The conference center uses only environmentally friendly cleaners and ensures that any potentially hazardous products, such as fluorescent lamps and ballasts, are disposed of properly, according to John Murphy, Bell Harbor general manager. In addition, Bell Harbor recycles all food waste, paper, cardboard, glass and cans.

Since the nearly 100,000-square-foot Bell Harbor began composting in August 2007, the conference center has saved more than \$5,000 by diverting about 40 tons of compost from the waste stream.

The conference center also collaborates with the Port of Seattle on these initiatives and others. Starting on May 1, 2008, Standard Biodiesel will begin purchasing Bell Harbor’s kitchen grease and turning it into biodiesel fuel that the Port of Seattle will use to power its vehicles.

“As one of the West Coast’s premier waterfront meetings-and-events venues, Bell Harbor is honored to accept this EnviroStars rating,” said Murphy. “Our location on the shore of Puget Sound made this the absolute right thing to do. This inland sea is a sanctuary to orca whales, salmon and a host of other wildlife, and we want to make sure we help protect this habitat.”

The achievement speaks to the commitment of the Bell Harbor team, Murphy added. “We instituted protocols to ensure that we operate an environmentally friendly conference center. It’s our employees who ensure that those protocols are followed every day. Everyone pitches in.”

The government of King County, Wash., launched the EnviroStars program in 1995 to give businesses incentives and recognition for reducing hazardous waste, while giving

consumers an objective way to identify environmentally sound businesses. More information about the program is at www.EnviroStars.com.

Bell Harbor International Conference Center – one of the most technologically advanced conference centers on the West Coast – can host anywhere from six to 6,000 guests for professional conferences and retreats, weddings and other special events. Bell Harbor has 360-degree views of Seattle’s skyline, the Olympic Mountains and Mount Rainier, as well as a talented kitchen staff that uses the freshest local ingredients to prepare Northwest-inspired cuisine.

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About Bell Harbor International Conference Center

Bell Harbor International Conference Center is Seattle’s premier waterfront conference venue, with 18 meeting rooms totaling 98,387 square feet and capacity for up to 6,000 guests. Bell Harbor is equipped with state-of-the art technology and amenities, and provides the finest service and cuisine. The Port of Seattle owns Bell Harbor International Conference Center, which Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality manages and operates. To learn more, visit www.BellHarbor.com.

About Columbia Hospitality, Inc.

Columbia Hospitality, Inc., a leading hospitality management and consulting firm, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia Hospitality creates exceptional experiences for guests and employees while achieving phenomenal results for its property owners. Specializing in luxury hotel and resort management, Columbia Hospitality expertly transforms each vision for a unique property into an enduring and profitable business. Columbia Hospitality’s premier properties include boutique hotels and secluded resorts such as the following:

- Kenwood Inn and Spa, located in Sonoma's Valley of the Moon (Kenwood, Calif.)
- The Salish Lodge & Spa (Snoqualmie, Wash.)
- The Inn at Langley on Whidbey Island (Langley, Wash.)
- Friday Harbor House on San Juan Island (Friday Harbor, Wash.)
- Lakedale Resort at Three Lakes on San Juan Island (Friday Harbor, Wash.)
- Bellwood Lake Resort (opens 2009) (Tyler, Texas)

The company also manages a portfolio of conference centers and event venues in Washington state:

- Bell Harbor International Conference Center (Seattle)
- Talaris Conference Center (Seattle)
- Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside (Bremerton)
- Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook (SeaTac)

Other unique venues operated by Columbia Hospitality include the following Seattle venues:

- World Trade Center Seattle

- Club Cielo at ESCALA (opens 2009) (Seattle)
- Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center – catering and events only (Seattle)
- Pier 30 Event Center (Seattle)

The company additionally supports an active consulting division that has worked on more than 80 hospitality development projects in the Western U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit www.ColumbiaHospitality.com.