



## News Release

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## **Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority chooses planning firm for downtown waterfront development**

Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn Architects to work with Port Authority and City of Cleveland to develop world class waterfront

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority will announce today that **Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn Architects (EE&K)** has been chosen as the firm that will help to create a world class waterfront in Cleveland. EE&K was selected from among more than 25 prestigious architectural and planning firms that responded to the Port's call for architects that could manage such a visionary project. EE&K's body of work includes New York City's Battery Park, Long Beach's Queensway Bay and Baltimore's Inner Harbor East.

EE&K will work with the Port Authority and the City of Cleveland to redevelop a 100-acre parcel of prime waterfront property, currently the home of Cleveland's maritime Port. EE&K understands that the vision guiding this waterfront redevelopment includes connecting lakefront neighborhoods and business districts, providing the community with greater access to all of Lake Erie's amenities and creating a vibrant mecca for entertainment, recreation and cultural activity.

The selection committee, composed of Port Authority staff and representatives of the Downtown Alliance and the City of Cleveland, chose EE&K because it best matched the project's vision for a mixed-use pedestrian friendly space that maximizes Lake Erie's recreational amenities. EE&K also demonstrated their commitment to completing the work in phases so that the waterfront could be enjoyed throughout its transformation.

Eric Johnson, Ph.D., Real Estate Director for the Port Authority, says, "EE&K is definitely the right partner to take on the challenge ahead of us. We know that this waterfront redevelopment plan is part of a larger effort to attract business investment to Cleveland, and having EE&K involved is a key addition to our work."

Mayor Frank Jackson says the Port's selection of a firm with the capabilities of EE&K is exactly what he was hoping for. "When the City planned eight miles of waterfront back in 2004, it was with the hope that our town would step up to make sure it happened. The near west side is approaching its development potential through private investment; the Port Authority will fulfill the promise of the Lakefront Plan with public/private partnerships that will transform our waterfront."

EE&K's fees will be paid by a combination of grants from local foundations who endorse the work of the Port Authority and cost-savings measures. Details about the compensation package and the EE&K contract will be presented to the Port Authority Board for its consideration at the April Board meeting.

The Port Authority is currently working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to engineer and construct a new 200- acre confined disposal facility (CDF) near E. 55th Street to relocate its maritime business operations. Construction on the CDF is anticipated to begin in 2012. While it is being filled, some portion of the E. 55th Street site could be available to start commercial maritime activities, allowing for new development to occur downtown. This sequential approach supports the Port Authority's strategic goals of creating new jobs, spurring maritime business investment, and contributing to the economic turnaround in Northeast Ohio.

*For more information about the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, visit [www.PortofCleveland.com](http://www.PortofCleveland.com).*

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