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News Release

Media Contacts:

Rosemary Weathers Burnham
(859) 331-0794
rweathers.burnham@RoseCommunicate.com

Dawn Bardone
(513) 861-8866
dbardone@HGCconstruction.com

HGC Wins National Construction Award for Cincinnati Zoo

CINCINNATI, OH (February 19, 2010) - HGC Construction, a leading builder of sustainable design, has won Associated Builders and Contractors' National Pyramid Award for Excellence in Construction for its construction of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Historic Vine Street Village. The national award was presented to HGC Construction as part of ABC's 20th annual Awards of Excellence program, the premiere competition within the construction industry that recognizes outstanding construction projects across the nation.

HGC completed the Cincinnati's Zoo's Historic Vine Street Village project in May 2009. The project has been awarded LEED Platinum certification, the highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

Cincinnati Zoo selected HGC Construction more than a year ago to provide construction management services for the Zoo, and HGC senior project manager Jerry Muchmore works daily on site with the Zoo's Senior Director of Facilities, Mark Fisher. Mr. Fisher joined HGC Construction Vice President Gary Gilbert at the ABC award ceremonies in San Diego, CA, as Mr. Gilbert accepted the national award for HGC Construction.

"This national award for HGC recognizes the outstanding nature of this construction project and represents the commitment by many to make the Cincinnati Zoo the greenest zoo in the country," said Mike Huseman, president of HGC Construction.

HGC Construction, which is entering its ninth decade this year, earned acclaim nearly 50 years ago for its work on the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden railroad and train trestle.

The Zoo's new Historic Vine Street Village is a modern interpretation of a neo-Victorian style, designed by Cornette-Violetta Architects, LLC and inspired by the Zoo's original architect James McLaughlin. Some of the green highlights include:

The buildings are 78% more energy-efficient than standard buildings thanks to:

- 10 kW of solar panels
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Spray foam insulation
- A solar water-heating system
- Renewable energy credits that make the Membership and Ticketing building a Net-Zero carbon usage facility

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Rainwater is managed to eliminate runoff through the use of:

- More than 30,000 square feet of pervious pavers
- A rainwater harvesting tank that collects water from roofs

Reduce, reuse and recycle are important connects of the Historic Vine Street Village design as:

- 30% of the building materials were recycled
- Over 60% of the building materials were purchased locally
- More than 80% of the wood is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as sustainably harvested
- About 80% of construction waste was sent to recycling centers for reuse
- Waterless urinals and highly water-efficient toilets and faucets
- Captured rainwater is used to irrigate landscape

HGC Construction also has recently constructed two other facilities at the Cincinnati Zoo - the Transit Pavilion, which has been certified as LEED Gold, and a new gift shop, which is being submitted for LEED certification.

HGC, highly regarded for its work in green construction, also built the first certified LEED Platinum project in the USGBC's Interior Construction category in the Cincinnati area with its construction of Emersion Design's offices at the Hamilton County Business Center in Norwood. It also constructed the Lofts of Mottainai condominium complex in century-old structures in Over the Rhine, which earned LEED-Silver certification in 2009.

Award: Associated Builders and Contractors' National Pyramid Award for Excellence in Construction

Contractor: HGC Construction

Project: Cincinnati Zoo Historic Vine Street Village

Square Footage: 50,000

Cost: \$3.5 million

LEED Rating: LEED NC Platinum

Architect: Cornette-Violetta Architects, LLC

HGC Project Manager: Jerry Muchmore

About HGC Construction

HGC Construction has been known for excellence in construction since 1931. Recently HGC has earned recognition for its outstanding expertise in the construction of "green" projects in urban neighborhoods, including both renovations of existing structures and construction of new buildings that have won Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Recent work also includes Cincinnati Union Terminal, Hughes Center (high school), the Mercantile Library and the offices of Scripps Networks Interactive.

Headquartered in Cincinnati, HGC operates throughout the Midwest and is a full-service general contracting firm with a well-earned reputation for quality workmanship that inspires its general construction, construction management and design/build services. HGC is now a family of companies that includes Structural Systems Repair Group (SSRG) and Stanton Millworks.