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## **Southworks Development Names Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and Sasaki Associates as Master Planners for Former U.S. Steel Site**

*Planners of Chicago's Millennium Park and Beijing Olympics to bring world-class design to Chicago's Southeast side*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHICAGO** – The architectural and planning firm that brought Millennium Park to Chicago along with the firm that created the master plan for the 2008 Beijing Olympics in China, are teaming up to develop the master plan for one of the most significant urban redevelopment projects in the United States: turning 284 acres of the former U.S. Steel South Works site into a thriving community of homes, businesses, offices and recreational space.

After a nationwide search, Southworks Development LLC announced today that the world-renowned design firms of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) and Sasaki Associates (Sasaki) will partner to create the master plan for the redevelopment along Lake Michigan on Chicago's Southeast side.

"These two firms are absolutely at the forefront of innovative community planning, urban development and architecture," said Dan McCaffery, one of the principals of Southworks Development. "Combining the talents of these two teams will bring world-class urban planning all the way to the neighborhood level. This site, long a vacant eyesore in the community, will soon be transformed for the benefit of the community and the city, and will live up to Chicago's reputation as the greatest architectural city in the world."

The master plan is projected to include a marina, retail shopping environment, restaurants, community centers and residential properties all in a new and integrated community along the lakefront. The plan will, for the first time in

more than a hundred years, open the lakefront to the communities of Southeast Chicago.

"This is a very exciting development for Chicago. It will create a vibrant community out of an old industrial site and expand the city's open space on the lakefront," said Denise Casalino, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Planning and Development. "We will work closely with Southworks to help develop a master plan that reflects the needs and desires of the greater Southeast side."

Southworks Development, a joint venture formed to redevelop the property ten miles south of downtown Chicago, is comprised of Lubert-Adler Real Estate Fund IV, McCaffery Interests, Inc., and Westrum Development Company.

A key element of the redevelopment is the extension of Lake Shore Drive and US Highway 41, through the South Works site from 79th street to 87th street. With the completion of the new Highway 41, the site will be immediately accessible and only ten miles from the Loop. The extension of this critical road will increase access to the site and the community and is vital to the overall development of Chicago's Southeast side.

Founded in 1936, SOM is one of the world's leading urban planning, architecture, engineering and interior design firms. SOM is responsible for many of Chicago's largest and most important urban plans, including the Central Area Plan and the master plans for Lake Shore East and Stateway Gardens. SOM also created noted master plans for London's Canary Warf and the Washington Mall in the nation's capitol. The firm also designed world-renowned buildings including the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Chicago's Sears Tower and John Hancock Center.

"As a Chicago-based firm we are very excited to be working on the South Works project," said Richard F. Tomlinson II, a managing partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. "This project will help shape the future of Chicago's Southeast side, and we are honored to play a role in reintegrating this lakefront land back into the fabric of the city."

Sasaki, founded in 1953 with offices in Boston and San Francisco, has designed projects around the globe. Sasaki was awarded first prize in the international design competition to build the Olympic Green - the primary site of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Sasaki is acclaimed as a firm for its design of award winning, vibrant urban waterfront districts across America and around the world.

“This project represents a great urban design opportunity. The planning and design challenge for South Works is to create a unique and vibrant urban district, integrated with Southeast Chicago, to become a southern icon for the magnificent lakefront park system and all of Chicagoland,” said Dennis Pieprz, urban design principal for Sasaki.

The two firms already share some history. Fred Merrill, the Sasaki principal who leads the planning and urban design group at the firm, and is overseeing the Southworks project at Sasaki, is the grandson of John Merrill, a founder of SOM. “Combining the experience and resources of Sasaki and SOM will result in an extraordinary forward-looking development,” said Merrill.

The South Works site also has a special relationship with SOM. Two of the firm’s landmark skyscrapers – the Sears Tower and John Hancock Center – were built with steel manufactured at the South Works plant.

“I think the shared history between these firms and the South Works site bodes well for this partnership,” said John Westrum, principal of Southworks, LLC. “We could not be more excited to be moving forward quickly to revive this property, and bring an active thriving community to Chicago’s Southeast side.”

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For more information on the Southworks Development team, visit:  
[www.mccafferyinterests.com](http://www.mccafferyinterests.com), [www.westrum.com](http://www.westrum.com), [www.lubertadler.com](http://www.lubertadler.com).

For more information on the master planning team, visit [www.som.com](http://www.som.com),  
[www.sasaki.com](http://www.sasaki.com).