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SPOKANE PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT AWARDS CONVENTION CENTER COMPLETION PROJECT TO GARCO/ALSC/LMN DESIGN BUILD TEAM

The **Spokane Public Facilities District** announced today that the local firm of **Garco/ALSC/LMN** has been selected as the finalist for the voter-approved Spokane Convention Center Completion Project. Garco/ALSC/LMN was the top choice from among three Spokane-based companies for the effort to add 90,000 square feet of exhibit hall, meeting room and support space to the existing Convention Center. The project also includes improvements to the adjacent Centennial Trail, public open spaces and portions of the Spokane River shoreline.

“This was an extremely difficult decision to make because we had three extraordinary proposals to consider,” said District Board member Larry Soehren, Selection Committee Chair. “But after studying the overall design concepts, the cost proposals and listening to our staff, user groups and the public, it was clear that Garco/ALSC/LMN is the best choice for this project and the community.”

District CEO Kevin Twohig said the District employed a Design-Build selection process to give all three teams an equal chance to develop concepts, ideas, designs and costs based on criteria developed by the District, its convention center experts and stakeholders. The three teams began working on their proposals in early January which were submitted to the District earlier this month. All three underwent an intense interview process with the District, stakeholders and user groups prior to a day-long public open house on Thursday, April 18, which saw over 500 community members participate.

The three teams were scored based on their overall qualifications, the design concepts, the ability to meet stakeholder needs, durability, maintenance and sustainability of the building and shoreline improvements, the construction schedule and the price.

“This was an outstanding competitive process that provided three well qualified and innovative local firms with an opportunity to develop interesting and creative convention center concepts,” said Twohig. “We are confident that our region’s residents will be proud of the work that Garco/ALSC/LMN will do and be very pleased with the final results.” In addition to a local firm being selected to perform this work, Twohig said the estimated overall \$50 million convention center and shoreline improvement effort will provide more than 700 new jobs for the region as well as bring in thousands of additional visitors and their dollars.

The Convention Center Completion Project and Spokane River shoreline enhancements are being funded by an April 2012 sales tax and hotel/motel tax extension approved by 56% of Spokane County voters. The measure also included additional seating for the Spokane Arena---work on that project begins in 2013.