

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500	Virginia Beach, VA 23451	www.vbfun.com
	ph (757) 385-4700	fx (757) 437-4747

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Al Hutchinson Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau | 757.385.6652

Pamela Lingle Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau | 757.385.6628

Jessica Kraft BCF | 757.497.4811 | jkraft@bc-f.com

New Virginia Beach Convention Center Designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

World-Class Architects, SOM, Built the Sears Tower

(Virginia Beach, Va., 2007) – The grandeur of the new \$202.5 million Virginia Beach Convention Center – which opened its final phase in January 2007 – was designed by the Chicago-based architecture firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM). As one of the world’s largest architectural and engineering firms, SOM has designed structural greats such as the Sears Tower and John Hancock Center in Chicago, Bank of America building in San Francisco, Dallas Convention Center expansion, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and Korea World Trade Centre.

The new Virginia Beach Convention Center allows Virginia Beach to compete for the lucrative national and regional convention market. Completed in January 2007, the center features 516,522 gross square feet of space, including a 150,000 square-foot column-free exhibit hall, a 31,029 square-foot ballroom, 28,929 square feet of meeting space and 2,230 free parking spaces. SOM has long been involved in convention center design and appreciates the contribution a major public building can make to the vitality of a city. Clark Nexsen worked with SOM as a local partner.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) received recent honors for their design of the Virginia Beach Convention Center. In the 2006 Awards Ceremony hosted by the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Chicago), the architecture firm received a Citation of Merit in the Distinguished Building Award category for the Convention Center’s design.

The ninth annual installment of the *BusinessWeek/Architectural Record* award competition includes the Virginia Beach Convention Center as a recipient of the 2007 Citation for Excellence Award. Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP submitted the nomination.

--more--

The Virginia Beach Convention Center met the award criteria set forth by the *BusinessWeek/Architectural Record* award competition which states, “buildings that receive the award must embody design excellence that contributes to their owners’ business goals in a proficient and demonstrable manner.”

For the latest information and project updates on the new Virginia Beach Convention Center, visit the Web site www.vbmeetings.com.

The Virginia Beach CVB invites meeting planners to “Bring it to the Beach!” Virginia Beach is four hours southeast of Washington, D.C. by car and within a day’s drive or less from two-thirds of the U.S. population. For the latest information and project updates on the new Virginia Beach Convention Center, visit www.vbmeetings.com. Media information and digital images are available at www.vbpressroom.com.

###