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Regional Development Authority Joins City of Gary to Celebrate the Rejuvenation of the Marquette Pavilion

Press and local leaders tour facility; construction on track to be completed in June.

Gary, IN (May 5, 2012) – The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) joined officials from the City of Gary, the South Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau, and local business and community leaders, to celebrate the grand opening of the Marquette Park Pavilion.

The restoration of the Pavilion is part of a \$28 million package of improvements underway at Marquette Park that is being funded by the RDA. “This would not have occurred without the help of the Regional Development Authority,” said Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. The Mayor called Marquette Park “one of the jewels of the City of Gary” and noted that the new Pavilion “provides another opportunity for us to show our city off.”

“The RDA values the partnership that we have with the City of Gary,” said RDA Chairman Leigh Morris. “This partnership continues to find ways to be a catalyst for transformational change in Northwest Indiana. That is the mission of the RDA, and this really is transformational change.”

The renewed Pavilion “is a signature project and one of the most beautiful venues in Northwest Indiana,” said J. Forest Hayes, Director of the Gary Department of Commerce. Hayes praised the teamwork of the city, the RDA, the design and construction firms involved in restoring the Pavilion, “and hundreds of hard-working individuals” for the success of the project. “This was

**MARQUETTE PAVILION
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delivered on-time, on-budget and with no major hiccups,” he said. “That is the future of the City of Gary. This is the beginning, not the end, of high-quality projects for our community.”

Rev. Dwight Gardner, President of the Gary Park Board, noted that the restoration of the Pavilion created jobs for Gary residents, fulfilling a promise made by Mayor Freeman-Wilson to work hard to ensure that public works projects in the city employ people from Gary. “We are about to embark on a wonderful new time in this community,” he said.

While some finishing touches remain, “we are 95 percent done,” said Joel Baldwin, Senior Associate and Project Manager at Hitchcock Design, which developed the master plan for the restoration of Marquette Park. “Our goal was to make this the premiere banquet event in Northwest Indiana and I think we’ve done that.”



Local leaders celebrate the grand opening of the restored Marquette Pavilion.



Grand opening ribbon-cutting at the Marquette Pavilion

(Note: hi-res photos available by contacting David Wellman at 219-226-0300).

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About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.in.gov/rda