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**THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO TO UNVEIL DESIGN
AND ANNOUNCE GROUNDBREAKING PLANS FOR
MAJOR EXPANSION PROJECT ON MAY 31, 2005**

**New Building Designed by Renzo Piano will Add 264,000 Square Feet and Offer a
Stunning Showcase for the Museum's Extraordinary Collections of
Contemporary and Modern Art**

\$170 Million Raised to Date in Gifts and Pledges

**Museum to Present Special Exhibition on the Design Process,
*Zero Gravity: The Art Institute, Renzo Piano, and
Building for a New Century***

CHICAGO, May 31, 2005—In the tradition of Chicago's rich architectural heritage and position as a major center for architectural innovation, the Art Institute of Chicago unveiled today the design for a 264,000-square-foot expansion of the landmark Beaux-Arts building originally completed in 1893. Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, who has made light and transparency a hallmark of his museum architecture, is designing the \$258 million building as an entirely new showcase for the museum's extraordinary collections of modern and contemporary art. The striking glass, steel and limestone building, with an aluminum canopy described by the architect as a "flying carpet," and a northern façade featuring a monumental glass curtain wall, emphasizes light and permeability, while at the same time reflecting the museum's original architecture to unify old and new. The new building is scheduled for completion in spring 2009, with construction beginning June 2005.

The Art Institute announced today that it has to date raised \$170 million in gifts and pledges of the total campaign goal of \$285 million. This represents gifts and pledges from 75 donors, including 14 of \$5 million or more. This means that the Art Institute has already raised more than in their last three capital campaigns combined. JP Morgan Chase will contribute \$5 million as the Founding Civic Underwriter of the museum's Building of the Century, and is the largest corporate contributor to the project to date.

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The museum's public and more broad-based campaign for the project will now commence, in conjunction with the official ground breaking for the new building.

The Art Institute also announced today a new feature of the building—an elegant pedestrian bridge that will provide a natural link between Michigan Avenue, the museum, and Millennium Park as a major architectural feature of the expansion project. The bridge will be composed of a stainless steel structure with wood decking and glass railings. It will be 9 feet wide and 900 feet long, rising at an ADA access slope from the junction of the Great Lawn of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion and the area of the Anish Kapoor sculpture. It will cross Monroe Street and join the Art Institute's new north wing at the 3rd floor of the west pavilion, where it will connect to an outdoor sculpture terrace and indoor/outdoor dining pavilion. The bridge will overlook Millennium Park, Lake Michigan, and the architecture of the city skyline, as well as the Art Institute museum buildings.

The expansion marks a new era for the Art Institute of Chicago and will create a new cultural destination and architectural center point for the city, the nation, and the world. The design unveiling, which coincides with the presentation of the 2005 Pritzker Architecture Prize presentation events and activities, features tributes from Chicago's civic leaders, including Mayor Richard M. Daley, John H. Bryan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and William B. Harrison, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of JPMorgan Chase, as well as remarks by architect Renzo Piano on his vision for the project. There were also performances by the Chicago Children's Choir, Redmoon Theater, and members from the brass section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra culminating with the unfurling of a large-scale rendering of the new design.

In conjunction with the design unveiling, the Art Institute of Chicago is presenting the exhibition *Zero Gravity: The Art Institute, Renzo Piano, and Building for a New Century* that traces the design process. *Zero Gravity* is on view through October 2, 2005.

James Cuno, President and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute, stated, "The Art Institute of Chicago, once we combine the new and the existing facilities, will be a place where tradition and innovation meet, fulfilling the promise of our founders'

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vision by creating a museum space that not only addresses the physical needs of our collections, exhibitions, and programs, but also carries forward the tradition of architectural foresight and daring unique to our remarkable city. Unquestionably, the new wing will be the most significant new civic building constructed in downtown Chicago since the Art Institute's original Michigan Avenue building opened in 1893. It will be a distinctly forward-looking building, defined by the modern and contemporary collections it will house, as well as by what it will represent for the evolution of downtown Chicago."

John H. Bryan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, "The expansion of the Art Institute of Chicago heralds a new and exciting era in the history of the museum, bringing together the extraordinary vision of internationally renowned architect Renzo Piano and that of one of the nation's most beloved and respected cultural institutions. The design unveiling and *Zero Gravity* exhibition serve as an opportunity for us to share our plans with the public and to reaffirm the Art Institute's position as a major anchor of Chicago's arts corridor."

Design Highlights

The new building will be located in the northeast quadrant of the Art Institute site, at the corner of Monroe Street and Columbus Drive. At 264,000 square feet, the addition could stand alone as a major museum in its own right, and it will increase the size of the Art Institute by approximately one-third.

The new wing will create a dramatic 21st-century architectural identity for the Art Institute while complementing the existing building's 19th-century aesthetic. Vertically organized, the wing is divided into three attached spaces: a three-story east pavilion for galleries and museum education; a striking double-height court to enhance circulation; and a three-story west pavilion housing galleries, visitor services, a boardroom, sculpture terrace, winter garden, and dining facility.

In commenting on the project, architect Renzo Piano said, "Chicago is a great and significant city for architecture and the Art Institute has one of the world's most important collections. This design promises a wing that will give shelter to art and space for contemplation, while providing a strong link to the existing Art Institute. The

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design follows the tradition of well-crafted buildings in Chicago and will serve as a natural backdrop for the city's urban landscape."

The new wing will allow the Art Institute's significant modern collections—rivaled only by The Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris—to be shown in a new light. The striking new entrance on Monroe Street will gracefully extend the axis created by Millennium Park, complemented on its other end by the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

The east pavilion will consist of three floors above ground and one floor underground to provide 65,000 square feet of exhibition space for the museum's modern and contemporary art galleries including space for photography, film, video, and architecture. Moreover, with the new wing, every curatorial department of the Art Institute will gain space, and the entire museum will be reconceived, with galleries becoming available in the existing space for growing collections that have had limited visibility in the past.

A 20,000-square-foot education space on the first floor of the east pavilion, equipped with state-of-the-art technology and high-speed Internet access, will increase the museum's education space by 100 percent. The wing will also include new public spaces, a museum shop, café and a new garden court located at street level. The underground level will form the backbone of the structure above to house the museum's mechanical functions, storage and art handling areas.

The pioneering spirit of Chicago will echo throughout the design beginning with its Indiana limestone walls—paying homage to the Midwest and echoing those of the 1893 building—complemented by glass and steel to create a transparency of the northern elevation that will integrate the interior of the building with the dramatic setting provided by the adjacent Millennium Park. The "flying carpet" canopy will capture north light and deliver it to the skylights of the pavilion's top-floor galleries, lending a natural and fresh perspective for viewing and experiencing the works of art on exhibition and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

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Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley stated, "For more than one hundred years, the Art Institute has served as a bridge between past and future, a means for residents of Chicago and others to connect with the art of the world's many cultures. Renzo Piano's bridge extending from the heart of Millennium Park to the new wing will form a 21st-century connection between the Art Institute and the city, providing a dynamic interrelationship between the museum, the park, and the street. This new building will make a major contribution to the Grant Park area, the Loop, and the city of Chicago. We are committed to creating and supporting dynamic, architecturally stimulating and energy efficient buildings and attractions to the downtown area to welcome and embrace visitors from around the world."

The design will also yield a new north/south axis that will lead visitors on a "main street" through the new building from Monroe Street to the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Building fronting Jackson Boulevard, in which Regenstein Hall—the museum's space for temporary exhibitions—is located. This improved access will allow for freer circulation throughout the museum and will greatly increase the capacity and efficiency with which the museum will receive its 2 million annual visitors.

Added Mr. Cuno, "This project allows us to achieve greater coherence within the museum's major curatorial areas and greater clarity to the narrative of the museum experience. This is truly a defining moment in the history of the Art Institute."

Project Exhibition

To commemorate the expansion project, the Art Institute of Chicago will present a major exhibition tracing the design process for the new building. Through *Zero Gravity: The Art Institute, Renzo Piano, and Building for a New Century*, a full array of models, plans and illustrations of the expansion project will be on view to the public for the first time, reinforcing the architect's commitment to the dramatic and generous use of natural light in the galleries. *Zero Gravity* will be accompanied by a catalogue documenting the project, with essays written by James Cuno and Martha Thorne, Associate Curator of Architecture.

Renzo Piano

Renzo Piano was born into a family of builders in Genoa, Italy, in 1937. He graduated in 1964 from the school of Architecture of the Milan Polytechnic. As a student, he worked under the design guidance of Franco Albini, while also regularly visiting his father's building sites, where he gained invaluable practical experience. Between 1965 and 1970, Piano completed his education with study and travels in Britain and America. It was at that time he met Jean Prouvé, and their friendship would have a deep influence on his professional life.

In 1971, Piano founded the Piano & Rogers agency with Richard Rogers, his partner on the Centre Pompidou project in Paris, and in 1977, he founded l'Atelier Piano & Rice along with Peter Rice, the engineer who would work with him on many projects, until Rice's death in 1993.

Piano founded his current firm, Renzo Piano Building Workshop, in 1993, with offices in Paris and Genoa. Some 100 people work in close collaboration with him on numerous architecture and design projects around the world. In addition to the Art Institute of Chicago expansion, other current projects include the London Bridge Tower, the New York Times Headquarters Building, and expansions of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Columbia University campus, the Morgan Library, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize, awarded to Piano in 1998, is among the many honors he has received. Selected major projects of his include the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1977, with Richard Rogers), the Menil Collection, Houston (1986), the Lingotto Factory restoration in Turin, Italy (1994), the Kansai International Airport, Osaka (1994), the Museum of the Beyeler Foundation, Basel (1998), the Jean Marie Tjibaou Cultural Center, Nouméa, New Caledonia (1998), and the Potsdamer Platz reconstruction, Berlin (1999).

The Art Institute of Chicago

The Art Institute of Chicago, founded in 1879 as both a museum and school, first stood at the southwest corner of State and Monroe Streets. It opened on its present site at Michigan Avenue and Adams Street in 1893. Built on rubble from the 1871 Chicago fire, the museum housed a collection of plaster casts and had a visionary purpose: to acquire and exhibit art of all kinds and to conduct programs of education. The collection now encompasses more than 5,000 years of human expression from cultures around the world. With the expansion project scheduled for completion in 2009, a new complex will continue this process of growth.

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The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.

Museum Hours: 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday; 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Thursday; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Suggested admission: \$12.00; children over 5, students, and seniors, \$7.00; members always free. Visitors may pay what they wish, but they must pay something. Ford Free Tuesdays are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee. Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Great Kids Museum Passport" card from any branch library for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park-including The Art Institute of Chicago-and other Chicago institutions. To reach the Art Institute on the World Wide Web, contact us at: <www.artic.edu/aic>