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Central Green, City Hall Plaza Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BATON ROUGE, LA (May 4, 2018) – The third component of the *Central Green*, a concept of the community-driven Plan Baton Rouge II Master Plan, is now complete following a ribbon cutting ceremony that took place today at 11:00 a.m. behind City Hall. The prominent theme within Plan Baton Rouge II was to reconnect Baton Rouge with the mighty Mississippi River by establishing a connective urban core anchored by the Central Green - a network of greenspaces linking downtown's cultural and civic attractions. The redesign of City Hall Plaza fulfills a major goal of the plan by linking institutions such as the library, Old State Capitol, Shaw Center, and City Hall via a system of greenspaces including, Repentance Park, Galvez Plaza, North Boulevard Town Square, and City Hall Plaza.

The renovation of City Hall Plaza involved removing underutilized and harsh existing hardscapes in the plaza, and replacing them with a large green lawn and Live Oak shade trees. The redesign provides for better ADA accessible circulation throughout the Central Green, and allows the Galvez Stage to be utilized from both sides for the growing number and size of downtown's events. The total construction cost of the City Hall Plaza project was \$4.9 million, funded by State Sales Tax Rebates dedicated to riverfront improvements. Design and construction was spearheaded by Reed Hildebrand Landscape Architecture and their sub-consultants including: Reich Associates; Trahan Architects; WHLC Architects; Forte and Tablada; Jeffrey L. Bruce and Company LLC; Assaf, Simoneaux, Tauzin & Associates, Inc.; Water Management Consultants and Testing Inc.; and Lam Partners, Inc.

Arrighi Construction LLC. was awarded the City Hall Plaza construction project in late 2016, and have completed this project along with other Central Green components including Repentance Park in 2014 and Town Square in 2012.

"I am so excited to complete construction on City Hall Plaza. This world class green space, designed for active and passive use, has greatly improved ADA accessibility and pedestrian circulation within and around City Hall and the Raising Cane's River Center. Downtown Baton Rouge is becoming even more accessible for all residents and an attractive and walkable destination for conventions and tourists." Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

City Hall Plaza will promote additional active and passive recreation opportunities for downtown residents, tourists, and workers, by providing flexible greenspace and programmable areas such as the 'Front Porch' to City Hall which offers elevated views of the stage and terraced seating. The opening over the entrance to the B-1 parking garage, primarily used for City-Parish employee parking, has been covered with a dancing floor and greenspace. Critical upgrades to the parking garage were also part of the project including waterproofing and fire sprinklers. Further upgrades to the space included the installation of a sound system that will accommodate press conferences, events, and ambient music.

"The 'Central Green' is a premier urban greenspace recognized throughout the country, complementing the internationally recognized 'Crest' sculpture and Galvez Stage. City Hall Plaza is a critical component of the 'Central Green' that will positively impact the entire community, and we are pleased to see it completed." Davis Rhorer

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