

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DESIGN TEAM SELECTED; EIGHTH & NINTH STREET OFFICE BUILDINGS

~ State Meets with City and Historic Preservation and Business Communities to Discuss Reuse Approach ~

RICHMOND, VA – A design team has been selected to develop designs for renovation and expansion of the 9th Street Office Building and construction of a new office building on Broad Street between 8th and 9th Street.

Commonwealth Architects located in Richmond, Virginia and Perkins+Will located in Washington DC, were selected by the Department of General Services to develop plans for a historically sensitive restoration and renovation of the Ninth Street Office Building and the design for the construction of a new building to replace the Eighth Street Office Building. In an effort to bring design ideas from the community to the design team for consideration, representatives from the APVA Preservation Virginia, Historic Richmond Foundation, ACORN, Renaissance Partners, Capitol Square Preservation Council, Department of Historic Resources, and the City of Richmond have been invited to take part in design discussions.

“I am very sensitive to the issues the community has expressed,” said Richard F. Sliwoski, P.E., Director of the Department of General Services. “That is why we have asked for their input. We want to do this right and working together we will be able to do just that - - - ultimately resulting in a new signature building on Broad Street and a beautifully renovated Ninth Street Office Building.”

Constructed in the early 1900s, the Commonwealth acquired both the Eighth and Ninth Street Office Buildings in 1966 to serve as state office buildings. Both buildings have outdated heating and cooling systems, obsolete mechanical and electrical systems, significant life safety issues, handicap accessibility issues, and inefficient floor plans. The exterior of both buildings have deteriorated, with the exterior of the Eighth Street Office building crumbling and falling off. Assessments and studies of both buildings have been conducted, with the most recent study completed in June 2005 by Hillier Architecture. In 2006 the General Assembly directed the Department of General Services to begin developing plans for renovating the Ninth Street Office Building and replacing the Eighth Street Office Building.

Commonwealth Architects is a full service architectural and interior architectural firm. Since 1999 the firm has worked on diverse projects ranging from adaptive reuse of existing structures and new multi-family residential design to large-scale commercial facilities and new office buildings. Commonwealth Architects will be working with Perkins+Will to develop project designs. A design firm recognized with 70 years of award winning work and the distinction of

the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Firm of the Year award, Perkins+Will offers a full-range of architecture services.

For more information about the study conducted on the Eighth and Ninth Street Office Buildings go to the Department of General Services web site at www.DGS.Virginia.Gov and click on '8th and 9th Street Project.' For more information about the design team go to www.comarchs.com and www.perkinswill.com.

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