



CAPITOL SQUARE
REVIEW AND
ADVISORY BOARD

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For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, March 13, 2007

**STATEHOUSE LEADERS UNVEIL PLANS TO
ENRICH THE EXPERIENCE OF STATEHOUSE VISITORS**
Educational programs and exhibits at the Ohio Statehouse slated for overhaul

Columbus, Ohio – The Capitol Square Foundation and the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, with the help of Ohio House of Representatives Speaker Jon Husted (R-Kettering) and Senate President Bill Harris (R-Ashland), today unveiled and celebrated a design plan to create updated, high-tech, interactive exhibits and educational programs at the Ohio Statehouse to *Enrich the Experience* of school children and visitors.

The event also recognized corporate sponsors who have contributed more than \$1.3 million in private gifts to this exciting project.

“This project will dramatically change the way school children and visitors view and interact with our state capitol,” said Charles Moses, Capitol Square Foundation Chairman. “By *Enriching the Experience* of its visitors, the Statehouse will become a more special place for all Ohioans for generations to come.”

The present historical exhibits at the Statehouse consist primarily of static artifacts, graphics and descriptive text. Using contemporary electronic media, including DVD and flat-screen projection, the impact of the current Statehouse’s educational program and exhibits will be taken to a new level.

“With the design details unveiled today, I am confident that we provide an amazing experience for Statehouse visitors,” said William Carleton, executive director for the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board.

Hilferty and Associates, an accomplished design firm based in Athens, Ohio, unveiled the plans in the Map Room of the Ohio Statehouse, the location that will hold the majority of the new interactive exhibits and will be the starting point of the new visitor experience journey.

“The project to *Enrich the Experience* goes well beyond creating exciting new exhibits,” said the Honorable Richard Finan, chairman for Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board and member of the Capitol Square Foundation. “By establishing an endowment program to provide travel grants to schools throughout Ohio, we will be giving thousands of more school children the opportunity to learn about the Ohio Statehouse and the important work of state government that takes place within its walls.”

This project will also seek to complete existing projects already under way. These will include the Ladies’ Gallery, a room honoring Ohio’s first female legislators, and the George Washington Williams Memorial Room, a room to pay tribute to Ohio’s first African-American legislator and those that followed. Finally, the campaign to *Enrich the Experience* will create an endowment to help restore and maintain the nearly \$22 million worth of artwork in the building.

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“We appreciate the leadership from the Capitol Square Foundation and the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board to change how Ohio’s citizens interact with our Statehouse,” said legislative leaders Speaker Jon Husted and President Bill Harris. “We believe this is an historic opportunity to increase public awareness and involve citizens in the history of Ohio’s capitol building and the work of state government.”

The Capitol Square Foundation was established to increase public awareness of and to involve citizens in the history of the Ohio Statehouse. Its purpose is to raise funds to obtain, restore and maintain artifacts and other items related to the history and enhancement of this grand monument and its adjoining grounds, so that the seat of Ohio’s government may reflect the dignity of the state and its citizens.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board is responsible for maintaining the historic character of the Statehouse and Capitol Square while providing for the health, safety and convenience of those who work in or visit the complex. The Statehouse Education & Visitors Center, a cooperative effort of CSRAB and the Ohio Historical Society, coordinates tours of Capitol Square and provides information about the buildings, their history and Ohio's government.

Images are available upon request.

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