

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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Family Friendly Design/Build Competition to Help End Hunger on Public Display April 25-May 1, 2011 at Pioneer Place Mall

Eight teams of local architecture, engineering, construction and related industry professionals will compete in the 15th Annual “Canstruction®” design/build competition in Portland, Oregon. Teams will compete in one of the most unique food drives in the world by designing and building giant 10 feet x 10 feet x 8 feet structures made entirely out of full cans of food to benefit Oregon Food Bank. The structures will be on public display April 25<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at Pioneer Place in Downtown Portland to help raise awareness of hunger in our community. At the end of the exhibit the structures will be disassembled and all the food will be donated to the Oregon Food Bank for distribution to emergency feeding programs throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Thus far, some structures built at this free family friendly event have been in the shape of Alice in Wonderland, The Hungry Caterpillar, Little Engine that CAN, Cheshire Cat, Olympic Rings-Mt. Whistler, Polar Bear and much more.

On Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the eight teams will be split into two shifts, the first starting at 9am and the second starting at 2 pm, to work carefully and feverishly constructing their elaborate and quite complex structures. The following morning each structure will be judged by the Portland canstruction® jury and awards will be given for the Best Use of Labels, Best Meal, Structural Ingenuity, Jurors’ Favorite, Peoples Choice and Honorable Mention. The winning canstruction® entries will be entered into the international canstruction® competition. This year’s jury members include Rachel Bristol, Chief Executive Officer with Oregon Food Bank, Brandon Erickson, principal with Erickson Structural Consulting Engineers, and Ian Saiki, a graphics designer with Nike. The Portland competition is sponsored and organized by the not-for-profit Portland Chapter of the Society for Design Administration (SDA). The event is co-sponsored by Contract Flooring & Interiors, LBG Advisors, Harper Houf Peterson Righellis, Ash Creek Associates and Washington Association for Building Officials.

The public is encouraged to vote for The People’s Choice Award with a cash donation by visiting the information desk at Pioneer Place from April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Pioneer Place is located at 700 SW Fifth Avenue Portland, Oregon 97204 and will be open Monday through Saturday from 10:00am – 8:00 pm and Sunday from 11:00am to 6:00pm.

This year’s team entries are from:

- AMEC Earth + Environmental
- Axiom Software
- DCI Engineers
- Degenkolb Engineers
- Dull Olson Weekes Architects
- Emerick Construction
- Glumac
- Group Mackenzie
- Inkwell Creative Group
- KPFF Consulting Engineers
- Lease Crutcher Lewis
- LRS Architects
- Mahlum
- NW Natural Gas
- R&H Construction
- Skanska USA Building
- Works Partnership Architects

Last year’s canstruction® event resulted in a donation of approximately 29,000 pounds of food and \$5800 to Oregon Food Bank. Since its inception in 1997, the Portland canstruction® event has raised approximately 367,000 pounds of food and donated \$88,000 to help fight hunger in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Nationally organized, canstruction® is a 501(c)(3) charity committed to ending hunger. In 2011, Portland joins over 175 cities around the world participating in canstruction®. Visit the Portland canstruction® Facebook page [www.facebook.com/canstructionpdx](http://www.facebook.com/canstructionpdx) or the international canstruction® website [www.canstruction.org](http://www.canstruction.org) for more information.

Oregon Food Bank distributed 72-million pounds of food statewide last year. In addition to the 240,000 people who eat from emergency food boxes per month, it provides food to 20 regional food banks which, in turn, distribute food

to 947 local agencies, such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and more. Oregon Food Bank also works to eliminate the root causes of hunger through advocacy, nutrition education, community gardens and public education. Its mission is clear, "To eliminate hunger and its root causes.... Because no one should be hungry". If you or someone you know are interested in sponsoring the Portland canstruction® event contact Derrick Starr at (503) 274-2675 or email [dstarr@DLRGROUP.com](mailto:dstarr@DLRGROUP.com) for more information about sponsorship levels and how a canstruction® sponsorship can benefit you or your company.