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Kentucky Exposition Center receives Landscape Award for 29 years

Louisville, KY (October 30, 2009) – For the 29th consecutive year the Kentucky Exposition Center received the distinguished Hall of Fame Landscape Award from the Beautification League of Louisville and Jefferson County. This annual award is presented to local businesses or institutions that have placed first for three years in one of 16 different categories. The Expo Center received its first Hall of Fame recognition in 1980 and has maintained its status throughout the years.

“With continued efforts and creative plant selections, we can work towards this award next year as well,” said Vickey Hypes, horticultural section supervisor for the Kentucky State Fair Board. The Fair Board, which operates the Kentucky Exposition Center, maintains the property with 20 full-time staff and an on-site green house where plants and flowers are grown throughout the year.

The Expo Center has consistently competed in the annual Landscape Awards for more than 30 years in Class I, which is open to businesses with property that ranges from 16 to 300 acres. Extensive landscape criteria is used when selecting the top three in each class. Such criteria includes evaluation of whether the parking areas and entrance ways are enhanced by landscaping, assessment of the design of trees, shrubs and floral arrangements and review of how well the overall site is well maintained and if it possesses character.

According to Caroline Randolph, co-chairman for the Landscape Awards, preliminary judging for this event is facilitated by various Beautification League of Louisville and Jefferson County members based on geographical areas in Metro Louisville. Once the finalists in each class are selected, landscape and horticultural professionals then visit the various sites to determine the winners. Randolph, who has been co-chairman for 16 years, also said the businesses awarded into the Hall of Fame are regularly checked to make sure they are maintaining their top-notch status.

A total of 11 businesses, including Churchill Downs, Papa John's Corporate Office, Sullivan University and Yum! Brands, Inc. were recipients of the 2009 Hall of Fame Award.

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One of the top 10 largest public facilities of its kind in the United States, the Kentucky Exposition Center features 1.2 million square feet of indoor space including Freedom Hall, an indoor arena which seats over 19,000 people. The facility's class "A" exhibit space totals 425,700 square feet and accommodates an amazing spectrum of events year round. The expo center is the permanent home for the Kentucky State Fair, the National Farm Machinery Show, and the North American International Livestock Exposition. Conveniently located adjacent to the Louisville International Airport and near the junction of three major interstates, the Kentucky Exposition Center is easily accessible and just five minutes south of downtown Louisville. For more information, go online to www.kyexpo.org.

