



**For Immediate Release:  
February 12, 2007**

**Contact: Bridget Perry  
617-954-2276**

## **MCCA LAUNCHES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & HOSPITALITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**“Gate Shows” Provide Boston Neighborhoods with Grants and Statewide Scholarship Opportunities**

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) and State Senator Jack Hart today launched the MCCA Community Partnership & Hospitality Scholarship Fund, a two-part program that will allow all of Boston’s neighborhoods to benefit from consumer shows at the new Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) and will establish scholarships to boost workforce development in the hospitality industry.

“Every neighborhood in Boston is important to the city’s reputation as a premier convention destination and every neighborhood should benefit from the building’s success,” said James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the MCCA. “This program will provide funding for local non-profit organizations to continue their important tasks of revitalizing and improving the lives of our residents and the communities in which they live and also allow current and future students—our future hospitality providers—the opportunity to fulfill their career goals.”

“The benefits that will be realized by the South Boston community was an important and necessary piece of the Gate Show legislation, but I am very pleased that, through working with the MCCA, we have been able to expand the program so that all residents in the city will now be able to benefit from the revenues created through those events,” said State Senator Jack Hart.

The program will be funded through unanticipated revenue generated from consumer shows, also known as “gate shows,” and encourages local Boston non-profit organizations to apply for grants or donations up to \$10,000. Additionally, as part of the program, the MCCA has launched a statewide scholarship program that will provide two \$2,500 scholarships annually to current and future hospitality students.

The program expands on the South Boston Community Development Foundation (SBCDF), which was established in conjunction with legislation passed in August of 2006 that lifted a ban on gate shows at the BCEC. By state statute, the SBCDF will receive ten cents for each square foot of rented exhibit space and one dollar per admission ticket sold for each gate show at the BCEC. The SBCDF can then make charitable donations to South Boston non-profits. To fund the expanded neighborhood program launched today, the MCCA will match the revenues generated for the SBCDF and create a fund for charitable donations to non-profit organizations in the other neighborhoods of Boston.

“This is great news for the non-profits across the city of Boston,” said Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. “I applaud Jim Rooney and the Convention Center Authority for expanding on the South Boston concept and for recognizing that all of Boston’s neighborhoods were investors in the building and are vital to the convention center.”

The BCEC will host its first gate show, the New England Boat Show, February 17- 24, 2007, with nearly 1,000 boats on display, offering a complete range of powerboats and sailboats from sailing dinghies to 50-foot yachts. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend the eight day event that, in addition to world-class boats, will include more than 300 exhibiting companies representing the finest marine products and services. Tickets are available for all members of the public.

**About the MCCA Community Partnership Program:**

An internal committee of the MCCA will review grant applications and determine which programs will receive funding. Only requests from Boston-based, non-profit organizations working with at-risk youth, women or seniors, as well as programs revitalizing or improving a neighborhood and therefore improving the convention, tourist or visitor experience, will be reviewed. Requests for funding will be reviewed twice a year and the first deadline for proposals is April 15<sup>th</sup>. The authority’s grant-making guidelines can be found at [www.massconvention.com](http://www.massconvention.com).

**About the MCCA’ Hospitality Industry Scholarships:**

The MCCA’s Hospitality Scholarship Fund encourages professional development within the visitor and hospitality industry by awarding scholarships to Massachusetts high school seniors who are graduating from an accredited high school or college students who are currently enrolled as hospitality industry majors at a two- or four-year accredited higher education institution. Annually, two scholarships of \$2,500 each are available through the MCCA Community Partnerships & Hospitality Scholarship Fund, administered through the MCCA. Applicants must be residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Application Deadline for the 2007 academic year is May 1<sup>st</sup>. To download an application, please visit [www.massconvention.com](http://www.massconvention.com).

All grant proposals, as well as original completed Hospitality Scholarship applications, should be submitted directly to:

Dennis Callahan, Esq.  
Community Partnerships & Hospitality Scholarship Fund  
Massachusetts Convention Center Authority  
415 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210  
(No copies or faxes will be accepted.)

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. In 2006, the MCCA hosted at the BCEC and the Hynes 274 events with 666,522 attendees that generated 648,852 hotel room-nights and \$528 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

###