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CMSS Presented VAPA Inaugural Award *Firm Praised for Forging Public/Private Partnerships in the Development of Rocketts Landing*

Virginia Beach, VA - The Virginia Chapter of the America Planning Association has presented CMSS Architects with the Outstanding Private Sector Plan Award. Selected for its master plan for the Village of Rocketts Landing in Richmond, CMSS is the first-ever award recipient for this newly created category.

In order to bring the Rocketts Landing plan to fruition, significant municipal and environmental obstacles had to be overcome. New zoning categories were created in both the City of Richmond and Henrico County and a new procedure for phased brownfield remediation was developed in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Beyond excellent design and planning, the award's jury singled out several items that solidified its decision, including:

- "We were impressed by the level of cooperation in both public input and support and how it was received by both the City of Richmond and Henrico County."
- "The analysis of existing conditions and the market is excellent."
- "The fitting of the new to the old, including the old water tower, shows urban design excellence."
- "The emphasis on the public realm is demonstrated in the amazing public park along the James River in Henrico County. "

Once a historic port dating back to 1607, Rocketts Landing is located on a mostly abandoned industrial stretch of the James River, straddling the border between Richmond and Henrico County, and is just a five-minute drive from the capital's downtown business district. When completed in 2010, the 54-acre site will include 1,900 residential units (lofts, condominiums, apartments and townhouses), 500,000 square feet of office space and 200,000 square feet of entertainment and retail space.

Parks, walking trails, plazas and open green spaces interlace the project and connect it to various marinas, docks and a mile-long riverfront park – one of the few areas in the city with deep-water access.

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About CMSS

Founded in 1982, CMSS Architects serves a growing roster of local, national and international clients. In collaboration with community officials and residents, CMSS offers urban planning and design services that help communities honor their heritage and strengthen their future. Over the past two decades, the firm has received more than 100 national, state and local design awards from organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Society of Interior Designers, cementing an international reputation as leaders in architectural design, urban planning, interior design and landscape architecture.

About the American Planning Association

The American Planning Association brings together thousands of people – practicing planners, citizens and elected officials – committed to making great communities happen. APA is a nonprofit public interest and research organization committed to urban, suburban, regional and rural planning. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society.

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