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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

**DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION RECEIVES \$5 MILLION
GRANT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO THE WATERFRONT**

*Partnership with William Penn Foundation brings communities closer to the waterfront through new parks,
trails, and connector streets*

PHILADELPHIA, PA (October 3, 2013) – The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) has received \$5 million from the William Penn Foundation to further implement its [Master Plan for the Central Delaware](#), which advances “public access” as the organizing principle guiding redevelopment of the waterfront. The funds are intended to support projects that facilitate public access to the waterfront, improve connections between neighboring communities and the river, and facilitate further public and private investment and natural resource protection. This follows on a 2010 grant of \$5 million from the Foundation which helped to leverage over \$14 million from other sources.

The Master Plan – supported by the Foundation from inception, completed in 2011, and adopted by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission in 2012 – provides a blueprint and long-term vision for seamlessly interweaving and accessing high-quality public spaces along the central Delaware River waterfront, including developing parks every half-mile linked by a bike/pedestrian trail, as well as creating a network of connections into surrounding neighborhoods. This new infrastructure will not only provide expanded opportunities for public recreation but, by bringing more residents into contact with the waterfront, will also promote increased awareness and stewardship of the river.

The grant is expected to allow DRWC to continue its work on key projects, including:

- Funding the construction of the permanent Delaware River Trail between Washington Avenue and Pier 70
- Design for the central section of Delaware River Trail between Spring Garden St. and Washington Avenue
- Design and construction of a new pier park at Pier 68 in Pennsport
- Design and development of connector street amenities on Tasker St.
- Phase II archeology at the West Ship Yard site at Vine St. and Delaware Avenue

DRWC expects to announce further details on these projects this fall.

Helen Davis Picher, Interim President at the William Penn Foundation, explained that the Foundation supported an effort seven years ago to obtain input from thousands of Philadelphians regarding the waterfront. “Through an extensive civic

engagement process, we heard consistently that Philadelphians want better access to the river,” stated Picher. Shawn McCaney, Senior Program Officer at the Foundation explained further: “We have been working with DRWC to create and implement a roadmap for growth on the waterfront based upon this community feedback. DRWC has surpassed our expectations with its award-winning Master Plan and early projects like the development of Race Street Pier and the Penn Street Trail.”

The \$5 million grant in 2010 kick-started the implementation of the Master Plan. The Foundation’s initial investment of \$5 million yielded over \$14 million in capital investments for the waterfront from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia (detailed in attached spreadsheet). These funds allowed for the development of signature waterfront projects over the last three years, including:

- [Race Street Pier](#)
- [Washington Avenue Green](#) and the in-development park at Pier 53
- [First segment of Delaware River trail](#)
- Connector street projects at [Race](#), [Spring Garden](#), and [Columbia, Shackamaxon, and Marlborough](#)
- Acquisition of Piers 66-70
- Feasibility studies for Pier 9
- Archaeological study of the West Shipyard
- Interim improvements to the waterfront trail from Pier 70 Blvd. to Pier 53
- Pre-development work on the Festival Pier site at Spring Garden street

“William Penn Foundation’s latest \$5 million investment will allow us to greatly advance our implementation of the master plan. Since its creation by Mayor Nutter in 2009, DRWC has worked to raise funds from diverse sources to plan and build each project, and William Penn Foundation’s seed funding has been essential to catalyzing fundraising from all levels of government and non-profit sources. We are pleased to report that DRWC is meeting each milestone established in the master plan,” said Thomas Corcoran, President of DRWC.

DRWC expects to have a series of meetings with the appropriate community groups and with the Central Delaware Advocacy Group over the coming months to finalize its plans for exciting new projects to be designed and built over the next three years. These meetings will happen in parallel to ongoing projects such as the design of a park over I-95 and Columbus Boulevard at Penn’s Landing, the implementation of a pier park at Washington Avenue and the Spring Garden St. connector project.

About DRWC:

DRWC is a 501(c)(3) created in January 2009, exclusively for the benefit of the City of Philadelphia and its citizens. The fundamental purpose of DRWC is to design, develop and manage the central Delaware River waterfront in Philadelphia. DRWC is transforming the waterfront into a vibrant destination for recreational, cultural, and commercial activities for the residents and visitors of Philadelphia. For more information, please visit www.delawareriverwaterfront.com.

About The William Penn Foundation:

The **WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION**, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that close the achievement gap for low-income children, ensure a sustainable environment, foster creativity that enhances civic life, and advance philanthropy in the Philadelphia region. In partnership with others, the Foundation works to advance opportunity, ensure sustainability, and enable effective solutions.