



M O R R I S T H O M P S O N  
CULTURAL AND VISITORS CENTER

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Cruise Industry Foundation Presents Annual Gift at Morris Thompson  
Center Groundbreaking**

**Fairbanks, AK** — On Wednesday, May 30, the Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation (CICF) will present the second part of a gift totaling \$150,000 to the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center. The presentation will be made as part of the Center's groundbreaking ceremony in downtown Fairbanks.

The CICF check will be presented by John Shively, Vice President, Holland America Line; Don Habeger, Regional Vice President for Government Relations, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd; and Bruce Bustamante, Vice President of Community and Public Affairs, Princess Tours. Special guests at this groundbreaking ceremony will include Senators Ted Stevens and Lisa Murkowski, Representative Don Young, and Hans Neidig, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, as well as members of the Center's Leadership Team: Bill Deaver, Orie Williams, Jerry Isaac, Steve Thompson, and Richard Wien.

“The cruise industry is proud to be here to help celebrate the groundbreaking of this important new Center,” said Jim Border, chairman of the Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation. “Morris loved Alaska, especially Interior Alaska, which was the center of his universe. It seems especially appropriate that the building that will bear his name will celebrate all that is unique and special about this place that he loved.”

The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center will own and operate the facility. The Center will be governed by representatives from the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau, the National Park Service and the Thompson family. Expected to open in 2008, the Center will provide visitor information, exhibits, a theatre, an artisans' workshop and demonstration area, a cultural and environmental education classroom, and a store featuring

educational materials and Alaska Native art. It will also house Denakkanaaga, the region's Alaska Native elder's organization.

*CICF members include:*

*American Cruise Lines, Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Costa Cruises, Crystal Cruises, Cunard Line, Disney Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, Princess Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Seabourn Cruise Line, SeaDream Yacht Club, Silversea Cruises and Windstar Cruises.*

*Cruise Lines International Association*

*The nonprofit Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is North America's largest cruise industry organization with a membership of 21 cruise lines, 16,500 travel agencies and 100 Executive Partners, the industry's strategic business allies. CLIA participates in the regulatory and policy development process while supporting measures that foster a safe, secure and healthy cruise ship environment. It also provides travel agent training, research and marketing communications to promote the value and desirability of cruise vacations.*

Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.  
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