

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Blue Plate Selected as Preferred Caterer by John Hancock Observatory** *Chicago Catering Company Expands Relationships with City Attractions*

**CHICAGO, IL** – Blue Plate Catering has been awarded the preferred catering contract with John Hancock Observatory. Blue Plate will provide onsite catering services to the venue, which is located in one of Chicago's most iconic buildings. The partnership expands the Observatory's reach as a full-service event venue, providing space for both Chicago cultural, corporate and private special events.

John Hancock Observatory attracts visitors from around the world with its breathtaking views and expressionist architecture; it won the Distinguished Architects 25 Year Award from the American Institute of Architects. Its partnership with Blue Plate expands the service selection, promises greater efficiency and guarantees outstanding catering offerings for every event. John Hancock Observatory brings together members of the Chicago corporate community, tourists from around the world and local residents for a variety of events that occur year round.

"It is an honor to have been chosen as preferred caterer by one of our city's most recognizable destinations," explained Nancy Wright, President of Blue Plate. "We accept this recognition with pride and are eager to expand our relationship with John Hancock Observatory as it hosts many of the largest events and exhibitions in Chicago."

Blue Plate is currently celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year in business and is recognized in the hospitality industry for its commitment to culinary innovation in Chicago. Jim Horan, CEO, grew the company from a start up venture born in his basement to the renowned hospitality company it is regarded as today. A personalized approach to business and deep-rooted passion for food do not go unnoticed by Blue Plate's customers and have kept them coming back for over two decades.

The company has the flexibility to service a wide variety of events, from small, intimate gatherings to large galas while continuing to develop cutting edge cuisine for every budget. Blue Plate will provide food and event solution expertise for John Hancock Observatory, offering catering event services to all of its clients.

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#### **ABOUT BLUE PLATE**

Whether it's an intimate gathering for friends or a gala for ten thousand, Blue Plate can help you do it—with style. Blue Plate opened its first kitchen in 1983. Today, Blue Plate ranks among the top hospitality companies in Chicago. Offering boutique-style catering services to corporate, nonprofit, social and cultural institutions, Blue Plate retains preferred status at more than 85 venues, and has earned national recognition for its standards of service and creativity. In March 2009, *Illinois*

*Meetings & Events* named Blue Plate "Best Caterer" for the fourth consecutive year.

Blue Plate chefs hail from some of the premier kitchens in the country including restaurants such as Tru and Charlie Trotter's and 5-star hotels such as The Peninsula and The Four Seasons. Blue Plate also owns and operates three highly acclaimed restaurants: Rhapsody located at the Symphony Center, Park Grill in Millennium Park and blueprint opened in 2007 at the Merchandise Mart. Each of these uniquely conceived restaurants has quickly become an integral hospitality center within their respective world-renowned venues.

For additional information about Blue Plate, please visit [www.blueplatecatering.com](http://www.blueplatecatering.com).

#### **About John Hancock Observatory**

Located inside the iconic John Hancock Center, John Hancock Observatory is open every day from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and, at 875 North Michigan Avenue, stands in the heart of the Magnificent Mile next to hundreds of shops, restaurants, attractions and entertainment venues. Highlights include spectacular 360° views spanning 80 miles and four states and the city's only open-air Sky Walk, all accessed by the fastest elevators in the country. John Hancock Center and John Hancock Observatory are owned and operated by affiliates of Golub & Company. More information at [www.hancockobservatory.com](http://www.hancockobservatory.com).

Learn the latest from Chicago's skies by becoming a fan of John Hancock Observatory on Facebook and following its updates on Twitter, @aThousandFeetUp.

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