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## **Union Station Kansas City, Inc. Announces Appointment of George M. Guastello II as Chief Executive Officer**

**(Kansas City, Mo.)** – The board of directors of Union Station Kansas City, Inc. today (Thursday, December 18, 2008) announced it has appointed George M. Guastello II as president and chief executive officer. Former chief executive officer Andi Udris has resigned.

“We are fortunate to have someone like George agree to head up Union Station Kansas City, and we are grateful to Andi Udris for his contributions during his time as CEO, bringing blockbuster exhibits such as *the Dead Sea Scrolls* and leading the upgrade of the Station’s Level C to accommodate major exhibitions,” said Michael R. Haverty, chairman of the Union Station board of directors.

“Under George’s leadership, we expect to take Union Station to a new level, just like George took the American Royal to a new level as president and CEO of that organization,” said Bob Regnier, vice chairman of the Union Station board of directors.

Lee Derrough, who served as a member of the Mayor’s Union Station Task Force and is a member of the Union Station board, said, “having held leadership roles in two Kansas City treasures - the American Royal and Starlight Theatre - George brings significant experience to the Station in organizational leadership, strategic planning, major event production and a proven ability to transform vision to reality.”

Since departing the American Royal in 2007, where he served as president and chief executive officer for five years, Mr. Guastello has been consulting as the owner of GMG2 Production & Consulting, assisting the growth of entrepreneurial businesses. Prior to the American Royal, he served as vice president marketing and business strategy for the Starlight Theatre Association, senior vice president marketing and strategic development for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and assistant vice president commercial banking for Commerce Bank Kansas City, N.A.

Mr. Guastello, a native Kansas Citian, holds a master of business administration with an emphasis in finance and a bachelor of business administration with an emphasis in marketing from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. As a consummate community volunteer, he has held leadership positions with a number of non-profit organizations and has been recognized for his service to the community, receiving the Hospitality Leadership Award from The Greater Kansas City Hotel Association and the Brick by Brick Leadership Award from The Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City.

**(more)**

“It is an honor to be entrusted with the stewardship of these beloved regional treasures, Union Station, Science City and the Kansas City Museum,” said Mr. Guastello. “I look forward to working in partnership with the board, associates, volunteers and civic and political leaders to build on the rich traditions of the past, while creating dynamic, new opportunities that engage the whole community.”

Udris plans to pursue business opportunities in the economic development field.

“I have enjoyed immensely my time working at Union Station,” said Udris. “I believe I was able to use my skill sets to keep the Station moving forward. Now, it’s time for a shift in focus to strengthening community and civic relationships and increasing the public’s support and involvement with this historic treasure, and I am confident George will find success.”

### **About Union Station Kansas City**

Union Station Kansas City is a historical landmark and civic asset renovated and reopened to the public in 1999. It features a science center, national traveling exhibits, the region’s only 3D giant screen movie theater, live theater, shops and restaurants. A bistate cultural sales tax, the first of its kind in the country, funded nearly half of the \$250 million renovation. The remaining money was raised through private donations and federal funding. Union Station is a nonprofit 501c3 organization.

Current operating costs are funded by general admission and theater ticketing, grants, private donations, commercial space leases and facility rental. The Station receives no public funding. It has partnered with the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, the University of Kansas, and UMKC to offer additional programming. Union Station is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Union Station Kansas City, Inc. also operates the Kansas City Museum in Kansas City’s historic northeast neighborhood.

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