



Architectural Firm Selected for Design of Peace Island Medical Center

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The Peace Island Medical Center (PIMC) Steering Committee announced today the selection of an architectural and engineering firm to lead the design of San Juan County's new integrated medical center and critical access hospital.

The committee selected Mahlum, a Seattle-based firm that has strong connections to the San Juan Islands.

"Mahlum was a unanimous choice for us, based on their outstanding track record for innovative health care and energy-efficient design, and their strong connection to the San Juan Islands," said Barbara Cable, chair of PIMC's Design Committee. "Mahlum's inspired proposal and presentation demonstrated a clear understanding and commitment to designing an Island-appropriate health care facility. We believe they will be a highly motivated and exceptional design partner for our community."

"We are excited about the next steps in the design process, and including the Island community in helping us shape this work in the months ahead," said PeaceHealth's Jim Barnhart, who is leading the planning and implementation process for the project.

"We believe the best design solutions come from a sensitive response to the unique character of each community and place," said Mahlum Principal Butch Reifert. "Connecting to the culture, ecology and economy of the Island community will be essential to the long-term success of Peace Island Medical Center. Our mission is to create a PeaceHealth facility that the San Juan County community visits when sick and when well—to find health, healing and a continuing sense of community."

The Steering Committee, led by PeaceHealth and comprised of appointed San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 commissioners and staff, and members of the San Juan Community Hospital Committee, received comprehensive proposals from 11 pre-qualified architectural firms, each of which specialize in health care design of facilities of similar size and scope to Peace Island Medical Center. Three finalist firms made presentations to the committee in Friday Harbor earlier in March.

Design work for Peace Island Medical Center will begin immediately, with visioning, site planning and detailed design to prepare for issuing construction bids later this year. The committee leaders and Mahlum will be actively engaging the San Juan County community in various stages of the design process over the next several months.

“Selecting Mahlum as our architect is a significant step in expanding access to health care for our community.” said Pamela Gross, a member of the PIMC Steering Committee. “We look forward to working with the Mahlum team and our community in designing a medical center that will serve the needs of San Juan County for the next 50 years.”

Started four years ago as a grassroots movement to improve and expand local health care, the San Juan Community Hospital Committee invited PeaceHealth into conversations with the Hospital District Board of Commissioners.

In March 2009, PeaceHealth and the Hospital District approved a long-term agreement to significantly expand on-island healthcare services for Hospital District residents and Island visitors. The 50-year contract calls for PeaceHealth to build a new, fully Integrated Medical Center located in Friday Harbor, including a new, expanded primary care and specialty clinic, expanded diagnostic services center, a 24-hour emergency room, and a 10-bed Critical Access Hospital.

Under the terms of the approved agreement, local philanthropy will contribute \$10 million toward capital costs for Peace Island Medical Center. PeaceHealth will fund the remaining \$20 million, own the property and new facility, and will have full responsibility for the delivery of ongoing patient care, staffing and operations when it opens in the year 2012.

In July 2009, PeaceHealth signed a purchase agreement on a 22-acre site where the new medical center, scheduled to open in summer of 2012, will be built. The property is located at 1049 San Juan Valley Road, adjacent to the Friday Harbor Airport and just minutes from downtown Friday Harbor.

San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 is a tax-supported agency that currently provides clinic-based medical services and 24/7 urgent care services at the Inter Island Medical Center in Friday Harbor. It also operates San Juan Island EMS which provides emergency medical services, critical care transport, and injury and accident prevention programs. The District is comprised of San Juan Island, Town of Friday Harbor, Brown Island, Stuart Island, Johns Island, Speiden Island, Pearl Island and Henry Island in San Juan County, Washington. For more information on the IMC project, visit www.sjcommunityhospital.org.

PeaceHealth is a WA-based not-for-profit health care system serving multiple rural and urban communities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, PeaceHealth has provided exceptional medicine and compassionate care to Northwest communities for more than a century, including serving the needs of small and remote communities through the operation of three successful Critical Access Hospitals. PeaceHealth annually receives national recognition for innovations in patient-centered care, patient safety and healthcare technology. Research published in the June 2008 edition of the Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety ranked PeaceHealth as one of the top five quality of care health care systems in the country, and the leading system in the West. PeaceHealth is frequently named as one of the region's best employers. For more information, visit www.peacehealth.org.

Mahlum, founded in 1938, is deeply rooted in the Northwest, with strong design values that guide every aspect of the firm. Mahlum strives to design architecture that is poetic, enduring and inspiring by creating spaces that consistently express the culture, aspirations and identity of the communities they serve.

<http://mahlum.com/values/index.asp> # # #