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EDGEWATER CASINO HITS THE JACKPOT WITH JOEL BERMAN GLASS STUDIOS

**One of Vancouver's Most Exciting New Developments Highlights
Joel Berman Glass—Right Down to its Logo**

Vancouver, BC—From a sparkling 170 foot-long balustrade across its entire width to a dramatic sculpture inside, Joel Berman Glass Studios (JBGS) is proud to be an integral part of Vancouver's New Edgewater Casino at the Plaza of Nations, one of the most exciting projects undertaken in downtown Vancouver in recent years. Scheduled to open February 3rd, 2005 and located in the former British Columbian pavilion of Vancouver's Expo 86, the 70,000 square foot project, Vancouver's only full-service casino, will boast 600 slot machines, 50 game tables, a 500-seat theatre, an outdoor performance stage, making it the largest glass art project under construction in Canada using an unprecedented amount of Joel Berman glass.

"We were struck by the possibilities—both aesthetic and functional—of Joel Berman Glass Studios products," says Gary Jackson, principal of Edgewater Casino, which is developing the project. "Incorporating Berman's art and work to the extent that we are is an opportunity to create something that's much more than a casino, and fits into our objective of social and cultural responsibility." Indeed, as part of its program, the casino is helping to beautify Vancouver's waterfront, will be providing a number of personal and professional services to its inner-city employees, and will help fund, through the revenue it creates, new regional transportation and other infrastructure projects.

"We're always looking to find fantastic new ways to show off our glass," says JBGS founder and president Joel Berman. "Our design team responded to the original structure and created site specific artistic yet functional designs using our own custom hardware and glass. This casino is one of the most significant new projects in downtown Vancouver right now, and we're very pleased and honoured to be such a big part of it."

Using over 4500 square feet, about 70% of which is recycled, of JBGS's sandblasted, frosted, textured and custom patterns, the casino will be a virtual showcase for the architectural and sculptural possibilities of the medium. Some of the ways in which it will highlight JBGS glass are:

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—An 8 foot-tall balustrade will cover the mezzanine that stretches 200 feet—across the entire width of the building. Here, a geometric pattern of variously textured JBGS panels creates a dramatic divider of sparkling translucency.

—An impressive one of kind hanging sculpture in the casino's main steel and glass space creates a stunning focal point, 16 feet-high and 24-feet in diameter, comprising glass fins arranged in three nesting arcs. The circular sculpture "Meeting Narvaez", meeting but not connecting, reflects the meeting of two of Vancouver's great mapmakers and discoverers. The sculpture completes a circle through complimentary circular forms meeting, and connecting but not totally joining. The circular form abstractly portrays the sextant, the mapping tool once used to establish longitude and latitude.

—A 25 foot-high glass screen will stand outside the entrance, composed of 3 layers of glass. The freestanding sculpture, "Van Coeverden Revisited" is composed of geometric panels of various textures with an overlay of abstract glass patterns. In-between them are tilted fins evoking the local landscape. Van Coeverden was the original Dutch spelling of Vancouver's family name. Revisited refers to the sculpture design paying homage to his mapping and naming of Vancouver.

—Continuing the design theme, there is also extensive use of JBGS glass throughout, the offices and main walkway.

In fact, JBGS glass is such an important element of the casino's design—and identity—that it has been incorporated into its branding. Inspired by the work's elegant shape and visual impact, the Edgewater Casino logo will emulate the arcing curves of JBGS's hanging glass sculpture as a testimony to the design that is helping to distinguish this project.

Edgewater Casino

Edgewater Casino at the Plaza of Nations is Vancouver's only casino destination offering a full range of gaming and entertainment options. Re-energizing the waterfront site of the BC Pavilion for Expo 86, the casino updates this simmering Vancouver landmark and reflects the natural beauty of Vancouver and the diversity of its people. Located directly on Pacific Boulevard across from General Motors Place and BC Place, the Edgewater is a unique and high profile entertainment and gaming destination for Vancouver's visitors and residents alike.



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Joel Berman Glass Studios

From their studio on Vancouver's Granville Island, Joel Berman Glass Studios have, for over 15 years, designed and manufactured glass art for many high profile clients worldwide. The landmark Chrysler Building in New York, The Gap World Headquarters in San Francisco and Disney's Wilderness Lodge in Orlando, Florida are among many prominent addresses, which feature works by JBGS.

Joel Berman Glass Studios Designers

Rabia Zuberi—Designer

Rabia Zuberi has a strong design background with a Masters in Industrial Design from Pratt University, NY and a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the National College of Arts, Pakistan. She started early in the design industry working as an intern for an architectural office in 1991 while she still attended architecture school. She continued her career in the architecture and interiors design field by working as a designer for Architects in Pakistan and the USA. When Rabia joined Joel Berman Glass Studios in 2003, she brought with her a broad range of design faculties and a desire to be challenged—a perfect addition to a company where discovery and pushing the envelope are huge motivators. With Berman Glass editions, Rabia's effort was key in working through the process of creating a three dimensional texture from a two dimensional image.

Sidonio Garcia—Designer

Sidonio Garcia was born in 1971 and studied architecture at university in Mexico. He went on to study architectural landscape and worked alongside different architectural firms as a commercial and residential developer and designer. In 2000 he moved to Canada and started to create art and furniture for commercial and residential applications combining beauty and functionality by using geometric forms to accomplish his signature of simplicity. Before joining Joel Berman Glass Studios, Sidonio received a certificate in building design. Applying his knowledge as a manufacturer and designer, he is now an essential part of the design team at JBGS as a hardware and glass designer.

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