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For Immediate Release

GARY LEE PARTNERS RECEIVES MBE CERTIFICATION:

INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM TAKES STEPS FOR FUTURE GROWTH IN A CHALLENGING ECONOMY

CHICAGO, IL-- 12 October 2010 - Gary Lee Partners, the internationally renowned interior design and product design firm, announces that it successfully completed the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification process with the City of Chicago, and is pursuing certification with other institutions across the United States.

"It is an extremely competitive environment for small businesses," states president and founder Gary L. Lee. "While my firm has always qualified for MBE designation, we never pursued certification." Influenced by the increasingly aggressive marketplace, Gary Lee Partners has been exploring new opportunities to differentiate itself. As business relationships are being reevaluated and companies are taking a comprehensive look at their existing contracts, Lee is looking to create new opportunities for his firm. "There is no single reason why a company is awarded work today, so it is my objective to be seen as the most compelling and value-added option among my peers." Lee finishes by stating, "I believe that receiving our MBE certification adds a new facet to my firm that may help position us for new projects with some clients and collaborators."

Since many organizations have purchasing and procurement programs that encourage MBE and WBE participation, "I believe our certification will interest some of our larger corporate, hospitality, and institutional clients", states Design Principal David Grout. "We expect that the ability to hire a firm of Gary Lee Partners' caliber and support a client's specific corporate responsibility objectives and requirements will be highly desirable and will benefit all parties."

While real estate development has slowed down, Gary Lee Partners also believes its MBE credentials will position the firm for future work with base-building architects and real estate developers who often look for a diversified team. Having collaborated successfully with noted architecture firms (like Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Goettsch Partners, Arquitectonica, Pickard Chilton and Associates, DeStefano Partners, and Ziegler Cooper and Associates) and high profile real estate developers (like Hines Interest and The John Buck Company), Gary Lee Partners has begun to position itself for the next building cycle, which is typically in development five or more years before a building ever breaks ground.

[About Gary Lee Partners](#)



Gary Lee Partners is a Chicago-based design firm specializing in workplace, residential, and hospitality interiors, as well as product design. Founded in 1993 by Gary Lee – a designer inducted into the Interior Design Magazine Hall of Fame and named Interiors Magazine’s Designer of the Year before the age of 40 – Gary Lee Partners services clients across North America, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Notable clients include Armani Exchange, Hyatt Corporation, SEPIA Chicago, Winston & Strawn, The Boston Consulting Group, Madison Dearborn Partners, Knoll, and Halcon Furniture. In 2010, GLP has received various local and national interior and product design awards, including the AIA Chicago and NeoCon Gold Award. For more information, visit www.garyleepartners.com or contact Anne Nowicki at (312) 640-8373.

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