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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Leadership for FoRRD Brings Talent, Experience and Management

(Birmingham, Alabama) The Friends of the Railroad District, Inc. (FoRRD), announces Katherine Estes Billmeier as its Project Counsel. Additionally, the FoRRD Board of Directors has been expanded.

Billmeier, who heads Birmingham-based KEB Consulting, will oversee all aspects of contract management and overall project management in the execution of the pending FoRRD contract with the City of Birmingham to create a public park in the abandoned RailRoad district stretching over the city center and the Southside of Birmingham.

Giles Perkins, president of the FoRRD Board of Directors said, “With her experience in working with significant landmarks of this region and enhancing their community value, Katherine brings FoRRD an important perspective in the birthing of this public park.” “We are fortunate to have someone of her talents leading the FoRRD Team,” Perkins added. Prior to the naming of Billmeier, FoRRD has been led by a volunteer committee from its Board of Directors.

From 1999-2004 Billmeier served as the Executive Director of the Vulcan Park Foundation, which was charged with the restoration of Birmingham’s historic icon and the rehabilitation of Vulcan Park. In this role Billmeier directed all contracts, planning, fundraising, marketing efforts and maintained all financial records for the successful project.

Additionally, Billmeier has experience working with other Birmingham landmarks such as Sloss Furnaces, the new Ronald McDonald House and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

“The FoRRD project is critical for economic stimulation in the City Center and creates a new legacy for Birmingham that ensures a quality, well-managed green space and public park”, said Billmeier. “The FoRRD Board is committed to the creation and operation of this park, and I am eager to work with project manager, HB Brantley and the City of Birmingham to see this happen,” she added. FoRRD is working on an operating agreement with the City of Birmingham that calls for fundraising, design, construction and ultimate operations to be managed by the non-profit organization the Friends of the Railroad District, Inc. (FoRRD).

Volunteering for service on the FoRRD Board of Directors are:

President: Giles G. Perkins; Miller, Hamilton, Snider and Odom, LLC

Treasurer: W. John Daniel; Counsel, UAB

Directors:

Hughes Evans; MD, PhD, Division of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, UAB

Will French; VP/CFO Dunn Investment Company

Floyd Gaines; Gaines LLC

Grayson Hall; Senior VP, Regions Financial

Bobbie Knight; VP Public Relations, Alabama Power

Don Logan; Chairman of the Board, Time Warner Cable

Drayton Nabers, Jr., Maynard, Cooper & Gale, PC

Curtis Pickens; Regional Manager, Legislative and External Affairs, AT & T

Gary Richardson; Owner and General Manager, WJLD AM 1400

William J. Rushton, IV; UAB Honors Program

Mark Styslinger; Altec Industries

Steve Yoder; Balch and Bingham LLP

Camille Spratling; President, Central City Neighborhood Association

FoRRd is a collaboration of efforts, public and private, to ensure that city center growth and revitalization, urban design and railroad/industrial heritage are hallmarks of the region. FoRRD recognizes that parks are fundamental features of a livable city and the urban park use of the abandoned land along the railroad tracks in the city center can serve as a catalyst for cultural, recreational and economic opportunities while enhancing the overall community's quality of life. FoRRD is a non-profit foundation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) 3 corporation.

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--NOTE: Web Site www.railroadpark.org is currently under re-construction