

PROJECT OF THE YEAR: STRUCTURES \$10 MILLION–\$100 MILLION

Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center

Managing Agency: City of Norfolk, Virginia

Primary Contractor: S.B. Ballard Construction Company

Primary Consultant: Clark Nexsen, Architecture & Engineering

Nominated By: APWA VA/DC/MD Chapter

The City of Norfolk, Virginia, has truly arrived on the cruise scene with a 775 percent growth in passengers from 2001 to 2007. To accommodate the surge, the City planned, designed and constructed a \$40 million state-of-the-art cruise terminal, or the Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center. The terminal is within a short walking distance of downtown shops, restaurants and hotels. Due to Norfolk's central location on the Eastern seaboard, home-porting ships can sail to Bermuda (Celebrity Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises), the Bahamas (Carnival) and the Caribbean (Holland America Line).

City leaders envisioned the thousands of passengers and crew that each cruise brings as a good way to revitalize downtown by filling restaurants, stores and tourist attractions. They also believed the terminal could generate additional revenue for the city during the off-season, since the facility would be designed as a space for meetings and events. When the cruise ships are out at sea and during the shoulder seasons, the City uses the facility for meetings, corporate dinners, holiday parties and other gatherings, with an average of 600 people for a seated event and up to 3,500 for a social event. The glass-enclosed facility with spectacular views of the Elizabeth River and harbor becomes a "celebration center," offering more than 33,000 square feet for meetings and other events.

The Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center is the first cruise terminal constructed in the United States since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and has been labeled by port officials as the "most security-focused customs and border protection area of any cruise terminal nationwide." The terminal has been adopted by the Department of Homeland Security as the prototype for future terminals. It incorporates the latest security standards integrating customs and immigration procedures in a spacious 10,000-square-foot area, complete with computerized kiosks.

Access to the terminal is by way of Town Point Park. Elevators carry people to the second level where they cross an elevated bridge into a grand rotunda. From there, passengers pass through security checkpoints and onto an elevated gangway for boarding. Passengers disembarking a ship will go to the lower level to collect luggage and pass through a customs and border protection area.

To date, the Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center is the largest Capital Improvement Project ever undertaken by the City of Norfolk and the Norfolk Public Works Department. It differs from other terminals in that it is a city project, instead of a

division within a port authority. This autonomy gives Norfolk more control on such issues as the on-time arrival and departure of ships, and on the overall experience of cruise passengers from the time they leave home until they step on a ship's gangway.



Norfolk Cruise Terminal

Norfolk, Virginia

Project Overview

Contract Number	N/A
DUNS Number	04-344-9701
Award Date	June 16, 2005
Completion Date	March 2007
Original Construction Value	
Total Construction Value	\$23,621,217
Type of Contract	Hard Bid

Project Description

Construction of this 89,000 square foot concrete and steel Cruise Ship Terminal consisted of a main terminal building, entry building, and a bi-level pedestrian bridge connecting the two. Site work consisted of additional modifications to the existing vehicular lanes, construction of a steel and fabric canopy assembly and utility work.

Client Reference

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Concrete Contractor

S.B. Ballard Construction Company

Mechanical Contractor

Colonial Webb

Electrical Contractor

Watson Electric