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NAVY PIER ADDS TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS AS IT KICKS OFF ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

CHICAGO – Navy Pier, Inc. (NPI), the not-for-profit corporation that oversees the Midwest’s top leisure destination and historic landmark, recently elected two new members to its Board of Directors.

Under the leadership of Navy Pier Board Chairman William J. Brodsky, Berle Blitstein and Charles Matthews join the Board as Navy Pier kicks off its Centennial celebration with the completion of the first phase of a multi-year redevelopment and transformation. “We are thrilled to welcome Berle Blitstein and Charles Matthews to the Navy Pier board. They bring a wealth of experience and expertise to Navy Pier,” said William J. Brodsky.

“Now more than ever, we must continue to rely on the guidance, strategy and counsel from our trusted board members,” said Marilyn Gardner, President and CEO of Navy Pier, Inc. “I am thrilled that Charles and Berle have joined our board.

New Board member profiles:

Berle Blitstein

Berle Blitstein has served as CEO of Crown Packaging International since 1993. Crown Packaging International supplies a wide variety of rigid plastic containers, glass bottles and glass containers to companies worldwide.

Blitstein serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Since 1988, he has been an ardent supporter of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Mr. Blitstein has been a philanthropic supporter and provided counsel to a number of other organizations: the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Jewish Children's Bureau Board, the Cerebral Palsy Foundation and the Feinberg School of Medicine at Chicago's Northwestern University.

Mr. Blitstein was educated at Bradley University and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

He is married to Marlene Breslow-Blitstein – an artist who also shares his philanthropic passion for supporting the arts, health and cancer research.

Charles Matthews

Charles Matthews brings more than 30 years of management, leadership, and finance experience, as well as a passion for working with non-profits, to this board position.

An energy and utility industry veteran, Matthews has served as President and CEO of Chicago-based Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas since July 2015. In this role, he oversees the daily operations, strategy and growth of the two energy companies that collectively provide natural gas service to nearly one million customers in the City of Chicago and northern suburbs. Matthews joined Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas following WEC Energy Group's June 2015 acquisition of Integrys, which owned Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas.

Prior to his current role, Matthews spent nine years in executive and senior leadership roles at We Energies, a subsidiary of WEC Energy Group. Most recently, he oversaw the utility's wholesale energy division. Prior to We Energies, Matthews was president and CEO of Jamaica Public Service Co. Limited, a subsidiary of Mirant Corp. He also held various positions at Southern Company, Georgia Power and Exxon.

Matthews is on the board of the Illinois Utility Business Diversity Council (IUBDC) and is active with several organizations and non-profits in Chicago, including Chicago United, the Commercial Club of Chicago and its Civic Committee, World Business Chicago, and Business Leadership Council.

In Milwaukee, Matthews served as a director on the boards of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, the Next Door Foundation, Black Arts Think Tank (BATT), Three Harbors Council, Boy Scouts of America, and the American Coal Council, where he also served as board chair.

NPI Board members are elected to three-year staggered terms.

About Navy Pier

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top-attended leisure destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than 8 million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. 2016 marks Navy Pier's 100th anniversary with a series of special events and programming, the grand opening of its new *Centennial Wheel* and ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts as part of the Centennial Vision. Navy Pier, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, maintains and oversees Navy Pier and its redevelopment into a bolder, greener and more contemporary urban space. For more information, visit our website at www.navy pier.com.