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**Historic Shopping & Dining Attractions Offer Group-Friendly and FIT Programs
for the International Traveler**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June, 2016.....Historic Shopping & Dining Attractions (HSDA) includes three of the top destinations and “must see” attractions in the U.S. for domestic and international travelers including the Seaport District NYC, Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston and Union Station DC in the nation’s capital.

“Our goal is to provide the tour operator with a new product they can sell that includes the top two activities of the international traveler, shopping and dining. Packaged with the rich history that each project brings to the brand, the traveler will be able to see and do everything they desire in one main attraction in each city,” explained Carolyn J. Feimster, CRX, CMD, Travel and Tourism Manager for the three properties. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Commerce has research that proves that the cultural traveler stays longer in a destination and spends more money than the non-cultural traveler, so it makes sense to align these similar, historically significant projects together.

“These attractions are so parallel in what they have to offer...unique shopping, fabulous dining, free entertainment and interesting exhibits, yet they each communicate a very different aspect of our important heritage in America,” said Feimster. She added, “It is important to continue to embrace and promote the history that each of the properties offer.”

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“All these attractions offer a vast array of experiences for group and FIT travel. We also offer a lot of flexibility in our programs so that we can accommodate custom requests we receive from the travel trade,” Feimster further stated.

For FIT, Faneuil Hall Marketplace partnered with Shop America Tours and launched a commissionable Shop and Play Package called, “Shop, Explore, Taste and Play”. This can be found on:

<http://www.shopamericatours.com/shop-america-tours-for-boston-massachusetts/item/283-faneuil-hall-marketplace.html>

Additionally, both Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Union Station DC offer pre-paid commissionable food court dining vouchers that are perfect for the group travel business. This gives the traveler a vast selection of meals from a variety of food court vendors. Dining vouchers can be purchased on line at:

- For Faneuil Hall Marketplace -
<http://www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com/info/foodvoucherprogram>
- Union Station DC –
<http://www.unionstationdc.com/info/foodVoucherProgram2015>

Each property welcomes visitors and offers a host of group-friendly and FIT programs, including: **

- VIP Welcome Packet of discounts and incentives – Travelers can enjoy discounts and special incentives from many of the stores and restaurants.
- Downloadable vouchers are available and are redeemable for the Welcome Packet.
- Vouchers can be customized with the tour operator’s logo and are redeemable for the Welcome Packet.
- Year-round shopping packages are available with select area hotels.

For group travel, the properties also offer the following programs:

- Meet & Greet Programs with special incentives, discounts and activities from select retailers and restaurants, including a Welcome Packet.
- Pre-arranged Spouse Programs for meetings and conventions.
- Guided Tours upon request.
- Welcome Bags prepared for convention and meeting delegates.
- Gift Cards are available to purchase for Meeting Planners to include in the group’s welcome bags.
- All three properties offer unique features and activities such as museums, the Freedom Trail, water activities/cruises and much more.
- Private event and meeting space, including space for receptions.
- Private lunch, dinner and cocktail functions with all-inclusive group menus (available upon request).
- Some properties offer pre-paid commissionable Food Court Dining Vouchers. Plus, some properties offer a "Top Purchasers Reward Program".

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- Downloadable shopping and dining vouchers.
- Easy motorcoach parking.
- Marketing support materials such as images, logos and text for your printed and on-line brochures.
- Reservation agent seminars and training plus agent incentive programs such as Sweepstakes.
- FAM tour assistance.

**Not every property offers every program.

Description of the HSDA Properties:

The Historic Seaport District in Lower Manhattan, nestled between the Brooklyn Bridge and the canyons of Wall Street, is your gateway to Lower Manhattan’s rich history and cultural diversity. Discover an authentic historic cobblestone district with over 50 unique local shops and restaurants and a robust cultural events calendar. Cross South Street to Piers 15 and 16 for the best riverfront views of the Brooklyn Bridge and Statue of Liberty, or cruise on one of the sightseeing boats. A number of sightseeing boats and coaches depart from here. Sip a cocktail enjoying the sights! **www.SouthStreetSeaport.com.**

Also, The Seaport is undergoing a massive redevelopment project and more information is available at <http://www.southstreetseaport.com/development-vision/>

Located in the historic heart of Boston, **Faneuil Hall Marketplace** welcomes visitors to walk through history and experience New England’s #1 destination as well as the City’s central meeting place. It is as alive today as it was in 1742 when our nation’s fathers proclaimed it “The Cradle of Liberty”. Walk along the aged cobblestones to enjoy performances by world-renowned street performers. Smell and taste wonderfully diverse ethnic foods in the Quincy Market Food Colonnade – the largest international food hall in New England! Shop for goods from all over the world at over 100 shops and specialty pushcarts. **www.FaneuilHallMarketplace.com**

Union Station D.C. is a superbly restored, historic, mixed-use, intermodal transportation hub, shopping center and dining destination located just blocks from the U.S. Capitol Building. Union Station is one of the most iconic destinations in Washington, D.C. The transportation hub and retail destination is visited by over 40 million people each year. The terminal is served by METRO, Amtrak, MARC and VRE commuter railroads, and is the main bus terminal of Washington D.C. as well as a hub for many D.C. tour bus operators. Union Station D.C. is also host to a number of free public events, exhibitions, and festivals throughout the year. Please check the online calendar for current details. **www.UnionStationDC.com**

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International visitors love to shop! And, they love unique dining experiences where they have lots of choices. These properties offer all of that, plus cultural experiences, historic perspective, entertainment and more. For store and restaurant listings, a complete schedule of activities throughout the year, hours and directions, please log onto www.HistoricShoppingandDining.com, FaneuilHallMarketplace.com, SouthStreetSeaport.com, and UnionStationDC.com.

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