



OKC BOATHOUSE FOUNDATION

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Oklahoma City Awarded 2014 Canoe Marathon World Championships

OKLAHOMA CITY – June 24, 2010 The International Canoe Federation (ICF) has announced it will award the 2014 Canoe Marathon World Championships to Oklahoma City, Okla. This will be the first World Championship event on the Oklahoma River and the first Canoe Marathon World Championship to be held in the USA.

“This event is a favorite with spectators in Europe since you can see the action right in front of you as the paddlers lap the race course and hop out to portage their boats,” said Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation Executive Director Mike Knopp. “To have an event coming to Oklahoma City that will be hosted in Rome and Copenhagen in the years leading up to the Oklahoma River race truly underscores the remarkable success we are having with the development of the Oklahoma River. And, it’s exciting for us to be able to bring a race that’s so popular in Europe and introduce it to a new audience here in America.”

The event is awarded on a competitive process with cities around the world vying for it. It has been awarded to Rome, Italy, in 2012 and Copenhagen, Denmark in 2013.

Canoe Marathon is a flat-water long distance race that includes portions of the race where athletes carry or “portage” their kayaks over land. The race is 20 kilometers for men and 15 kilometers for women with athletes making several laps on a course to cover the distance. Canoe Marathon World Championships are held annually and attract athletes in the junior, under 23, senior and master categories. The 2014 event will take place Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28 on the Oklahoma River in downtown Oklahoma City.

“Hosting the ICF Canoe Marathon World Championship in Oklahoma City is a great

honor,” said Shaun Caven, Oklahoma City National High Performance Center head canoe/kayak. “This will be the first time the event will be held in the USA, proving that the vision of the city leaders has correct – build it and they will come.”

Approximately 300 athletes will travel from around the world to Oklahoma City to compete at the event, bringing with them their coaches and families for the four-day event.

The Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation submitted a bid on behalf of the city for the event in March of this year, with Knopp traveling to Budapest, Hungary in April to present the City’s bid to the ICF Board of Directors. Jorn Cronberg, the Danish Chairman of the ICF Marathon Canoe Committee and ICF Official Rutgerus Pieter Heijselaar toured the Boathouse District venue and race course May 27-30, after which they recommended the ICF Marathon Committee award the 2014 event to Oklahoma City.

“We are thrilled that the Canoe Marathon Committee will get to experience the best paddle sports has to offer through Oklahoma City,” said Joe Jacobi, USA Canoe/Kayak executive director. “USA Canoe/Kayak always looks to Oklahoma City to raise the standard of competitive paddle sports. Now the international paddling community will get to experience why this city is our paddle sports capital of the USA.”

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A PROJECT OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOATHOUSE FOUNDATION