



NEWS

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ARIZONA FORWARD NAMES STATEWIDE FINALISTS IN 37th ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PHOENIX (Aug. 11, 2017) – From revitalizing underused real estate to forging groundbreaking conservation programs or helping to fill food deserts, the entries in Arizona Forward's Environmental Excellence Awards presented by SRP reveal a growing statewide commitment to sustainability. Finalist entries demonstrate ways to positively impact Arizona's environment and natural resources far into the future.

Winners of the coveted first-place Crescordia and Awards of Merit will be announced at a gala on Sept. 23 at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. The events draws upwards of 600 community leaders and dignitaries from throughout Arizona.

A total of 14 first-place Crescordia winners and 22 Awards of Merit will be presented this year. These projects set standards for achieving a balance between the built and natural environment, impacting the state's physical, technical, social and aesthetic development. Initiated by Valley Forward in 1980, the Environmental Excellence Awards were opened to projects statewide in all categories for the last three years, after the organization broadened its geographic focus in 2013.

“Stewardship of Arizona's natural resources is a concern for communities of all sizes, as is economic growth and vitality,” said Diane Brossart, president & CEO of Arizona Forward. “The projects we're recognizing reflect a shared commitment to the balance between the natural and manmade environment. The growth of this program over the years is inspiring, particularly as green building and sustainability have become mainstream.”

Nominations embodied a wide spectrum of public, private, educational and nonprofit interests. Finalist projects were submitted by both Maricopa and Pima Counties, as well as the cities of Avondale, Buckeye, Mesa, Phoenix, Somerton and Tucson.

Award categories include: the Governor's Award for Arizona's Future, Buildings and Structures, the Vitalyst Health Foundation Award for Healthy Communities, Energy and Technology

Innovation, Site Development, Art in Public Places, the Northern Arizona University Award for Environmental Education and Communication, and the SRP Award for Environmental Stewardship.

One entry per category may be presented with the coveted Crescordia, a Greek term meaning, “*To Grow in Harmony.*” In addition, up to two Awards of Merit may be presented per category. Arizona Forward will bestow its most prestigious honor – the President’s Award (Best of Show) – to an individual, business, organization, program or event for special achievement in environmental excellence.

Lead judge for the competition was **Ed Fox**, retired Chief Sustainability Officer of Arizona Public Service Company. Fox capped an 18-year career at the utility, serving in a variety of capacities including, vice president state and local affairs, and vice president for environment, health, safety, communications, technology development, real estate, and transportation. Prior to that position, he was Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Other jurists from throughout Arizona include: **Bruce Aiken**, nationally recognized Grand Canyon artist; **Rich Bowen**, associate vice president of Northern Arizona University; **Michael Bower**, president/architect of Design Group Architects; **Jon Ford**, director of communications of Vitalyst Health Foundation; **Trista Guzman**, policy assistant at the Office of the Arizona Governor; **Stephanie Healy**, director of public affairs for Cox Communications; **Rob Longaker**, senior project manager for the WLB Group; **Erik Peterson**, president/principal of PHX Architecture; **Lori Singleton**, director, customer programs and operations support at SRP; and **Laura Thelen**, landscape architect at LVA Urban Design Studio.

In addition to the corporate community, the awards program traditionally draws a wide range of federal, state and local dignitaries. Since its inception in 1969 as Valley Forward and its statewide expansion 44 years later, Arizona Forward has mobilized the state’s business leaders and policymakers to leverage their collective power to influence how we best grow our communities, stimulate our economy and enhance our environment.

The Environmental Excellence Awards gala is open to the public but reservations are required. For information or to reserve seating, call Arizona Forward at (602) 240-2408 or register online at arizonaforward.org.

A complete list of finalists and their respective categories in Arizona Forward’s Environmental Excellence Awards program follows.

2017 EEA FINALIST REPORT

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR ARIZONA'S FUTURE

Name of Entry: Colorado River Conservation Agreement
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Water Services Department

Name of Entry: Pima County's MSCP: Uniting Growth, Community and Environmental Protection
Submitted by: Pima County, Arizona

Name of Entry: Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, ASU
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BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Civic

Name of Entry: Desert Botanical Garden Horticulture Center Phase 1
Submitted by: coLab Studio, LLC

Name of Entry: Mesa Community College Performing Arts Center
Submitted by: Jones Studio

Name of Entry: Somerton City Hall
Submitted by: LEA Architects, LLC

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Historic Preservation

Name of Entry: Alhambra Hotel
Submitted by: City of Mesa

Name of Entry: DeSoto Central Market
Submitted by: Motley Design Group LLC

Name of Entry: School of Architecture at Taliesin
Submitted by: David and Gladys Wright House Foundation

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES: Commercial & Institutional

Name of Entry: Liberty Wildlife
Submitted by: Weddle Gilmore Black Rock Studio

Name of Entry: Mesa Community College Student Portal
Submitted by: Marlene Imirzian & Associates LLC, Architects

VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: Sustainable Communities

Name of Entry: Community-Based Health Education and Empowerment Program
Submitted by: Esperança, Inc.

Name of Entry: Pueblo Viejo Fields and Food Hub
Submitted by: City of Phoenix

VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:

Multimodal Transportation & Connectivity

Name of Entry: Historic Avondale Pedestrian Improvements
Submitted by: City of Avondale Engineering and Development Services

**VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION AWARD
FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: Public Policy/Plans**

Name of Entry: Alley Over
Submitted by: Thinking Caps Design & Urban Culture Design

Name of Entry: City of Phoenix Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Program
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs

VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:

Sustainable Workplaces

Name of Entry: Jones Studio Office
Submitted by: Jones Studio

Name of Entry: Phoenix Green Business Leader Program
Submitted by: City of Phoenix – Public Works Department

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

Name of Entry: Home Innovation Starts Here: Scaling Near-Zero Homes
Submitted by: Mandalay Homes

Name of Entry: Installation of Phase Change Material in Historic Blome Bldg, NAU
Submitted by: Northern Arizona University

SITE DEVELOPMENT: Public Sector

Name of Entry: Fifth Street & Buckeye Road Brownfields Redevelopment Project
Submitted by: Harrison Properties

Name of Entry: 27th Avenue Phoenix Compost Facility
Submitted by: Arrington Watkins Architects/Dibble Engineers

Name of Entry: Underwood Family Sonoran Landscape Laboratory
Submitted by: University of Arizona College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture

SITE DEVELOPMENT: Private Sector

Name of Entry: Prescott College Housing
Submitted by: Colwell Shelor Landscape Architecture

SITE DEVELOPMENT: Parks and Trails

Name of Entry: Desert Hills Trailhead
Submitted by: J2 Engineering and Environmental Design, LLC

Name of Entry: Skyline Regional Park
Submitted by: City of Buckeye

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION:

Public and Private Sectors

Name of Entry: Don't Trash Arizona
Submitted by: Fingerpaint Marketing

Name of Entry: Drab to Fab Backyard Rehab Campaign
Submitted by: Water – Use It Wisely

Name of Entry: Recyclery
Submitted by: i.d.e.a. Museum

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION:

Educators, Students and Nonprofit Organizations:

Name of Entry: Downtown Tucson 2050 Plan
Submitted by: University of Arizona College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture

Name of Entry: Garden of the B's
Submitted by: Mesa High School

Name of Entry: Student Council Sustainability Officers Initiative
Submitted by: City of Phoenix, Office of Sustainability

SRP AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Name of Entry: Cox Communications Turning Waste into Growth in Arizona
Submitted by: Cox Enterprises

Name of Entry: Liberty Wildlife, Inc.
Submitted by: Liberty Wildlife, Inc.

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