



ARIZONA
FORWARD

NEWS

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ARIZONA FORWARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS RECOGNIZE VISIONARY PROJECTS AND INTRODUCES NEW AWARD

PHOENIX (Sept. 23, 2017) – The new Liberty Wildlife campus took top honors, the *President's Award*, in Arizona Forward's Environmental Excellence Awards presented by SRP at the Westin Kierland Resort tonight. Jurists also named the David and Gladys Wright House Foundation the first-ever recipient of the Diane Brossart Legacy Award, recognizing the 26-year tenure of Arizona Forward's outgoing president & CEO. The new award was presented to a landmark project that spans multiple award categories and transcends beyond the State of Arizona.

Liberty Wildlife was recognized for transforming a sand and gravel pit along an industrialized section of the Rio Salado habitat into a LEED Platinum-certified community gathering space. For more than 30 years, Liberty Wildlife has nurtured the nature of Arizona by providing wildlife rehabilitation, environmental education and conservation services. Designed by WEDDLE GILMORE black rock studio, the new campus was lauded for its energy efficiency and conservation features that have resulted in a 63 percent reduction in potable water needs.

That this year celebrates the 150th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birth, it is a fitting tribute that the Wright House earned a legacy award as one of the state's most iconic structures. The home was threatened with demolition by local developers in 2012, galvanizing an unprecedented collaborative effort to preserve and celebrate one of Wright's last masterpieces. The home was gifted back to the institution from where it was born – Wright's legacy, The School of Architecture at Taliesin, will take over planning for the preservation of the house and citrus groves. The school will realize Wright's vision for the house as a place of community, celebration, inspiration and education.

Arizona Forward celebrated the 37th anniversary of its signature awards program, drawing more than 500 social influencers and innovators representing public and private sector interests. For the third consecutive year, all categories were open to submittals from throughout the Grand Canyon State; from 1980-2014, the program focused exclusively on Maricopa County.

"These projects represent what's best about Arizona," Brossart said. "Leaders in communities of all sizes are thinking far into the future and crafting a legacy that will make Arizona environmentally and economically sustainable in the years to come."

Nominations received for Arizona's oldest and most prestigious awards competition demonstrate not only the priority of green design, but also a shared ethic to protect natural resources and build in harmony with the environment.

Among the special awards presented this were the: Governor's Award for Arizona's Future; Northern Arizona University Environmental Education & Communication Award; Vitalyst Health Foundation Award for Healthy Communities, and SRP Award for Environmental Stewardship. Other award categories include: Buildings and Structures, Energy and Technology Innovation, Site Development, Art in Public Places.

Arizona Forward and SRP presented 14 first-place Crescordia Awards and 26 Awards of Merit. Projects from Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai counties earned first-place Crescordias, a Greek term that means, *"To Grow in Harmony."* Among cities and towns to take top honors were Avondale, Buckeye, Mesa, Phoenix, Prescott, Tempe and Tucson.

"I was impressed and inspired by the number and caliber of entries we previewed – it demonstrates a serious commitment to our environment and quality of life," said Lead Judge **Ed Fox**, who retired from Arizona Public Service Company (APS) after an 18-year career where he served as chief sustainability officer following his tenure as director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

In addition to Fox, jurists include: **Bruce Aiken**, 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 – 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.

Since its inception in 1969 as Valley Forward, Arizona Forward has brought business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to improve the sustainability of communities throughout the state. The organization operates with the belief that businesses must take a leadership role in solving the complex and sometimes controversial problems that confront growing population centers.

In addition to the David and Gladys Write House Foundation and Liberty Wildlife, Crescordia winners include:

Colorado River Conservation Agreement (City of Phoenix Water Services Department) — *Governor's Award for Arizona's Future*

Through a historic agreement, the Bureau of Reclamation, the State of Arizona, the City of Phoenix and the Walton Family Foundation will fund 40,000 acre-feet of Colorado River system conservation through the Gila River Indian Community; this amount is roughly equivalent to 35 percent of the water Phoenix draws from the Colorado River each year. This is the first agreement for Colorado River system conservation in Arizona developed collaboratively to include city, state, federal and environmental-group funding. The intent is to lay the foundation for a long-term, sustainable, system conservation program that includes funding from multiple cities and environmental groups in addition to state and federal funding. This contribution will help forestall potentially catastrophic shortages and create a more resilient Colorado River that benefits the entire region.

Desert Botanical Garden Horticulture Center Phase 1 (coLab Studio, LLC) — *Buildings & Structures (Civic)*

A design process involving more than 40 participants set out to create a game-changing model of sustainability. Energy modelling and extensive costing scenarios provided the client and design team with information to make the very best decisions. Since plants are the central focus of the garden, greenhouses are placed at center. Its 24'x24' grid extended over the site to provide future shading of paths and buildings to reduce overall site heat gain. The greenhouses feature energy-saving polycarbonate cladding which, unlike glass, diffuses light for greater plant health. Salvaged materials are used throughout to reduce waste/cost, and a powerful "Great Wall" of giant boulders divides the site between public and operational areas.

DESOTO CENTRAL MARKET (Motley Design Group LLC) — *Buildings & Structures (Historic Preservation)*

From neglected auto dealership building to popular food market, the DeSoto Central Market brought new life to a key intersection along the Phoenix light rail line. The interior contains multiple restaurant "incubator space" kitchens for independent vendors, a coffee bar and drink bar. The building has become the focus of frequent community activities and meetings. In addition to general repairs and structural stabilization, major work included reconstruction of a collapsed corner tower, reopening of storefronts and entry doors and construction of an interior mezzanine. Missing cast stone ornament was re-imagined as public art, incorporating whimsical icons, such as auto parts, tools, DeSoto emblems and the building owner's cattle brand in place of Spanish style ornamentation. The interior design is rooted in history, combining original building features with salvaged historic materials and retro-inspired finishes.

PUEBLO VIEJO FIELDS AND FOOD HUB (City of Phoenix) — *Vitalyst Health Foundation Award for Healthy Communities (Sustainable Communities)*

This project is a dynamic combination of an urban farm and vocational training facility for developmentally disabled adults while providing the logistics and infrastructure to other small-scale agriculture operations. These efforts increase the access of fresh, locally grown produce while offering educational opportunities. Pueblo Viejo Fields and Food Hub serves those with the least access to healthy food. Quincea-Green on Purpose Alliance also provides education to community members on nutrition and the health benefits derived from making better food choices. This includes demonstrations of how to grow, prepare and cook healthier meals in consideration of cultural preferences. The QGPA model is replicable in areas of urban blight that have poor access to fresh quality food products.

CITY OF PHOENIX GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROGRAM (City of Phoenix) — *Vitalyst Health Foundation Award for Healthy Communities (Public Policy/Plans)*

As major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, cities can implement real solutions. Phoenix, the nation's fifth-largest city, can lead by example. The municipality has now completed three GHG inventories for its operations - base year of 2005, the 2012 update and the 2015 update. It has also just completed its first community-scale inventory of base-year 2012 GHG emissions within Phoenix boundaries. The 2012 update showed that emissions from city operations fell by 7.2 percent below base-year 2005 levels. The 2015 update demonstrated a 15.6 percent decline from 2005. The Phoenix City Council has set a milestone of a 40 percent reduction below 2005 by the year 2025. In the longer term, the council has committed to make the Phoenix community carbon-neutral by 2060.

JONES STUDIO OFFICE (*Jones Studio*) — *Vitalyst Health Foundation Award for Healthy Communities (Sustainable Workplaces)*

The architect/owners' new studio is a gesture of optimism to a forgotten, lower income, Tempe neighborhood. They chose a small, undeveloped site in a depressed residential area near the ASU campus with light rail stops, bike lanes and a perpetually regenerating young population. Their new office is a 6,600-square-foot masonry and glass building, set in a garden irrigated with gray water and captured rainwater stored in a 2,500-gallon underground water harvesting tank. After 12 months occupancy, the building is operating at 40 percent below energy model predictions. The studio interior epitomizes a healthy work environment, with an open plan layout and industrial-scale pole fans augmenting natural ventilation, improving air quality and reducing the need for air conditioning. The "family" table provides a consistent, unifying work surface which is, nonetheless, customizable and varied to suit individual workers.

UNDERWOOD FAMILY SONORAN LANDSCAPE LABORATORY (*University of Arizona College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture*) — *Site Development (Public Sector)*

The Underwood Family Sonoran Landscape Laboratory is the heart of the UA College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture. Transforming 1.2-acres of parking lot into an oasis, the project was part of a 2007 expansion and was integral to an architectural/landscape expression of college values. The research-oriented public garden demonstrates water-conscious design, urban wildlife habitat, urban flood mitigation and urban heat-island reduction. It employs five classic arid landscape design principles: water sustainability, reduction of the urban heat island, reduction of urban flooding, reconnection with nature and an interpretive oasis.

PRESCOTT COLLEGE HOUSING (*Colwell Shelor Landscape Architecture*) — *Site Development (Private Sector)*

The LEED Platinum, net-zero Prescott College Housing project involved collaboration between students and the neighborhood. The students expressed a strong desire for outdoor living and convenience that translated into an outdoor equipment washing station for rock climbing, as well as a barbecue/outdoor dining area with permanent and movable seating in the common areas, outdoor living rooms, a native edible/medicinal landscape and a terraced food forest that allows students to grow and cultivate their own food adjacent to their front doors.

DESERT HILLS TRAILHEAD (*J2 Engineering and Environmental Design, LLC*) — *Site Development (Parks and Trails)*

The goal for the Phoenix Preserves is to connect humans with nature in an environmentally responsible way. Desert Hills provides a human connection to the desert within a transformative and sensitive design aesthetic. This included accommodating, in an inconspicuous manner, a 180-plus automobile and equestrian lot. Extensive site analysis ensured the project respected, celebrated and connected to nature and was not forced onto the site, but rather grew out of the site. The location includes a past burn area with minimal existing vegetation. The design respects and preserves the natural washes that pass through the site and embraces natural topography. Design features integrate natural materials, such as rusted steel, integrally colored concrete and unique patterns of the desert cholla. The main walkway transects the site and connects Carefree Highway to the preserve visually and physically. Water harvest swales collect storm water runoff.

RECYCLERY (i.d.e.a. Museum) — Northern Arizona University Environmental Education & Communication (Public and Private Sectors)

Recyclery is a public/private partnership between the i.d.e.a. Museum and the City of Mesa's Environmental Management and Sustainability Department. The project began with a goal to develop a fun, innovative program to help children and adults learn what can and can't be thrown into the city's trash and recycling barrels. The team created an interactive touch-screen game featuring recycling information. The *Recyclery* also received new furnishings and added photomurals to inspire green actions. Visitors can create art from materials that have been discarded from local industry, such as donated plastic caps from Boeing. Periodically, museum and city staff offer demonstrations and special art projects focused on recycling. Also featured is information about the city's Club Blue program that teaches children about sustainability.

DOWNTOWN TUCSON 2050 PLAN (University of Arizona College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture) — Northern Arizona University Environmental Education & Communication (Educators, Students and Nonprofit Organizations)

As cities are pushed to the forefront of global climate leadership, municipalities still face resource constraints. This project offers a replicable model to educate and envision bold solutions to climate adaptability, local resiliency and future livability. In 2017, the UA College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture, GLHN Architects and Engineers, the City of Tucson and Pima County employees combined efforts to achieve year 2050 carbon and water neutrality targets without sacrificing either livability or projected growth in downtown Tucson. The semester-long project, led by one professor and 10 students, employed case study research, spatial mapping, quantitative analysis and design inquiry. The 2050 plan includes three components: district energy, water, and living infrastructure; district land use plan with sustainable building prototypes; and three sub-district master plans with rendered visions. One project produced a net zero energy pathway for downtown Tucson now being incorporated into Tucson's recent commitment to honor the Paris Climate Accord.

COX COMMUNICATIONS TURNING WASTE INTO GROWTH IN ARIZONA (Cox Enterprises) — SRP Award for Environmental Stewardship

Begun in 2007, Cox Conserves is Cox Enterprises' national sustainability program focusing on reducing waste and energy consumption and conserving water, as well as achieving "zero waste to landfill" companywide by 2024. Cox Communications' Phoenix-based Watkins Warehouse, a distribution hub for the southwest region, reached this milestone in 2016 by diverting 98 percent of its waste from landfill disposal. By implementing co-mingled recycling programs, leveraging a hub-and-spoke refurbishment and reuse system for end-of-life electronics and telecommunications equipment, and inspiring employees to adopt sustainable behaviors, CCI's Arizona locations on average maintain a 60-percent rate of waste diversion from the landfill or 1.2 million pounds of material. Through the program, 100 percent of the revenue from this recycling — nearly \$60,000 to date — benefits local Arizona nonprofits.

****EDITOR'S NOTE: Project photos, additional details and Award of Merit descriptions can be provided upon request.***

A complete list of 2017 Environmental Excellence Award Winners and categories are included below and on the pages that follow.

**2017 ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS
COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS**

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR ARIZONA'S FUTURE

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Colorado River Conservation Agreement
Recognition to: City of Phoenix, Water Services Department

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Pima County's MSCP: Uniting Growth, Community and Environmental Protection
Recognition to: Pima County

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, ASU
Recognition to: Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiatives, ASU

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Civic

CRESCORDIA

Entry Number: 2.1
Name of Entry: Desert Botanical Garden Horticulture Center Phase 1
Submitted by: coLAB Studio, LLC
Recognition to: coLAB Studio, LLC
Award Recipient: Mathew Salenger, AIA, Managing Partner, coLAB Studio, LLC

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Somerton City Hall
Recognition to: LEA-Architects, LLC

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Mesa Community College Performing Arts Center
Recognition to: Jones Studio

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Historic Preservation

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: DeSoto Central Market
Recognition to: Motley Design Group LLC

CRESCORDIA – DIANE BROSSART LEGACY AWARD

Name of Entry: School of Architecture at Taliesin

Recognition to: School of Architecture at Taliesin

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Alhambra Hotel

Recognition to: Alhambra Mesa, LLC

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Commercial & Institutional

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Liberty Wildlife

Recognition to: Liberty Wildlife

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Mesa Community College Student Portal

Recognition to: Marlene Imirzian & Associates LLC, Architects

VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION

AWARD FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Sustainable Communities

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Pueblo Viejo Fields and Food Hub

Recognition to: Quincea-Green on Purpose Alliance

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Community-Based Health Education and Empowerment Program

Recognition to: Esperança, Inc.

VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION

AWARD FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Multimodal Transportation & Connectivity

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Historic Avondale Pedestrian Improvements

Recognition to: City of Avondale Historic Avondale Pedestrian Improvements

VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION

AWARD FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Public Policy/Plans

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: City of Phoenix Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Program

Recognition to: City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Alley Over

Recognition to: Alley Over

**VITALYST HEALTH FOUNDATION
AWARD FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
Sustainable Workplaces**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Jones Studio Office
Recognition to: Jones Studio

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Phoenix Green Business Leader Program
Recognition to: City of Phoenix – Public Works Department

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Installation of Phase Change Material in Historic Blome Bldg, NAU
Recognition to: Solar ThermiX, LLC

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Home Innovation Starts Here: Scaling Near-Zero Homes
Recognition to: Mandalay Homes

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Public Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Underwood Family Sonoran Landscape Laboratory
Recognition to: Richard Underwood, AAA Landscape

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: 27th Avenue Phoenix Compost Facility
Recognition to: City of Phoenix Public Works Department

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Fifth Street & Buckeye Road Brownfields Redevelopment Project
Recognition to: Harrison Properties

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Private Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Prescott College Housing
Recognition to: Colwell Shelor Landscape Architecture

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Parks & Trails

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Desert Hills Trailhead
Recognition to: City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Skyline Regional Park

Recognition to: City of Buckeye

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Bloomcanopy Gimme Shelter Shade for Pierce Street

Recognition to: City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Passage – Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park Public Art Project

Recognition to: City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION
Public and Private Sectors**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Recyclery

Recognition to: i.d.e.a. Museum

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Drab to Fab Backyard Rehab Campaign

Recognition to: Water – Use It Wisely

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Don't Trash Arizona

Recognition to: Fingerpaint

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION
Educators, Students & Nonprofit Organizations**

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Downtown Tucson 2050 Plan

Recognition to: Courtney Crosson

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Garden of the B's

Recognition to: Mesa High School

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Student Council Sustainability Officers Initiative

Recognition to: City of Phoenix, Office of Sustainability

SRP AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

CRESCORDIA

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

Recognition to: Cox Conserves – Cox Communications

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Liberty Wildlife, Inc.

Recognition to: Liberty Wildlife, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Name of Entry: Liberty Wildlife

Recognition to: Liberty Wildlife

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