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CONTACTS: Heather Wilson, AIA Utah, hwilson@aiautah.org
Bryan Bell, Design Corps, bryan@designcorps.org

WEBSITES: www.publicinterestdesign.com/utah/pidawards/
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UTAH PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Salt Lake City, Utah

Three Utah-based projects have been selected through a competitive jury process to represent the best examples of design that create positive change in the world. One First Prize Award and one Honorable Mention Award winners showcase the important work being done in the emerging field of Public Interest Design to address the critical social, economic and environmental issues that challenge local communities.

The First Prize Winner is the “Volunteers of America Youth Center” to be built in Salt Lake City. The need and the design response are described in the award submission:

In 2013, Utah's Homeless Youth Resource Center served 944 individual homeless youth, 80% of whom are from Utah. They often reported having parents and caretakers who were addicted to drugs, involved in criminal activity, incarcerated and/or abusive. Economic stress has also been shown to increase violence and substance use in families, resulting in more youth fleeing their homes. Other youth have been kicked out of their homes, have run away from the hurt and/or find themselves alone without resources. About 75% of youth served report physical and sexual abuse, whereas 25% aged out of the foster care system. The youth still maintain aspirations and hopes of their future life. The Youth Center seeks to provide a safe trusting environment for homeless youth and help begin the process of moving out of homelessness and onto the path of self-sufficiency, and will be the only youth shelter in Salt Lake.

The First Prize project will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and will present at the **Utah Public Interest Design Institute** on May 9 at the Architectural Nexus Design Center, 2505 East Parley's Way in Salt Lake City. Other speakers from around the country will present other examples of best practices. The competition was organized by the American Institute of Architects Utah, Architectural Nexus, the University of Utah College of Architecture and Planning, The Center for the Living City, and Design Corps. These organizations will host the Institute which has provided training around the United States and in Europe.

The Honorable Mention Award goes to the “Project: ARCHITECTURE,” a new partnership between the Girl Scouts of Utah and the University of Utah College of Architecture + Planning to raise awareness of careers in the built environment for women and to provide opportunities for architecture students to engage in service and creative projects. The inaugural project for this partnership is the design and construction of three summer cabins for the Girl Scouts' Trefoil Ranch camp. In addition to this collaborative design project, the authors hosted a year-long series of outreach events to expose Girl Scout members directly to women practitioners, to provide female student mentors in design-related programs, and to offer opportunities for students and girls to visit architecture firms and construction

sites. Over the 2012-13 academic year, a group of architects, architecture student mentors, and a core group of Girl Scout participants developed the cabin designs and are currently overseeing their construction, which will be finished during the spring of 2014.

The criteria for the competition reflect the overall goals of the field of Public Interest Design:

- Participation: How and to what extent have community members and stakeholders been involved in the design and planning processes?
- Effectiveness: How and to what extent does the project address the community’s critical needs and challenges?
- Excellence: How and to what extent does the project achieve the highest possible design quality, relate with its context, and dignify the experiences of those it touches?
- Inclusiveness: How and to what extent does the project promote social equity as well as reflect a diversity of social identities and values.
- Impact: How and to what extent are the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the project known and being measured?
- Systemic: How and to what extent might the project or process be scaled up to have a broader impact?

The Public Interest Design Award Jurors were:

- Stephen A. Goldsmith, Director, Center for the Living City, University of Utah
- RK Stewart, FAIA, Founder, RK Stewart Consultants
- Eric Shaw, Director of Community and Economic Development at Salt Lake City Corporation
- Mimi Locher, FAIA, LEED AP, Associate Chair and Associate Professor, School of Architecture, University of Utah
- Bryan Bell, Executive Director, Design Corps

The jury commented on the extremely high level of work submitted. “The talent and impact of these award winners illustrate the amazing work being done in Utah, work that is equal to the best work being done anywhere in the world,” said Jury member RK Stewart, FAIA.

“The old segregations of thinking about human settlements are coming to an end and these fine designers, with their clients, are finding their rightful place in restoring and celebrating social, environmental and economic justice,” said Jury member Stephen Goldsmith.

Jury member Mira Locher added: “The inclusivity of the design processes and the positive social impacts of these projects make them exemplars and proves the value of good design for everyone.”

Full information on project teams and project images are available here:
www.publicinterestdesign.com/utah/pidawards/.

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