



A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The American Institute of Architects (Denver) Announces the Recipient of the \$5,000 Curt Dale, FAIA, Community Grant**

**DENVER (Jan. 6, 2010)** — The American Institute of Architects (AIA), Denver chapter, announces Housing Colorado and its Affordable Housing Gallery as the recipient of the 2009 Curt Dale, FAIA, Community Grant. The Curt Dale, FAIA, Community Grant is an annual grant program with the goal of enabling AIA Denver, through its membership, to make some significant, tangible contribution to the community at-large, and at the same time promote public awareness about the architecture profession. This \$5,000 grant is awarded to a single recipient or group from Denver each year.

Housing Colorado is a statewide network of more than 5,000 housing professional engaged in the full spectrum of affordable housing production, preservation and management activities, including rental, homeownership and service enriched opportunities. The online Affordable Housing Galley, set up by Housing Colorado, is designed to showcase the variety, quality and attractiveness of Colorado's affordable housing stock. The gallery is one element of a broader joint public education campaign to shift perceptions of affordable housing in our communities.

The former executive director of Housing Colorado, Alana Smart, says, "Housing Colorado applied for the grant because they value quality design in affordable housing for both residents and the surrounding community, and felt the connection with AIA Denver would amplify the importance of that value. This grant will help Housing Colorado shift antiquated paradigms about what affordable housing is as part of our 2010 public awareness campaign by allowing us to expand the showcase and reach a broader audience through system enhancements.

"Housing Colorado was thrilled to win, because the grant will help take our valued partnership with AIA Denver to another level. We believe that affordable housing is more than bricks and sticks and that well-designed developments enrich Colorado communities. The grant will enable Housing Colorado to reduce perceptual barriers to producing more affordable housing in Colorado by showcasing these developments as community assets, while enabling practitioners to learn from the innovative solution of others," says Smart.

"The AIA Denver board of directors had many great choices of potential recipients for the 2009 grant, and it was a difficult decision, but in the end, we felt that the proposal from Housing Colorado best fit the intent of this community-centric grant. Year after year, Housing Colorado has filled a niche for low and moderate-income families in our city that many take for granted. AIA Denver believes that this grant can be a small boost that will give Housing Colorado a much needed foothold for the success of its programs," says Steve Carr, AIA Denver 2009 President.

The AIA Denver Curt Dale, FAIA, Community Grant is awarded based on the following criteria: architectural or environmental relevance, potential for community outreach and participation, potential for volunteer-oriented support, teaming/partnering opportunities (including potential for generating additional funds from other sources) and public awareness potential, both for the profession and for AIA Denver.

#### **PREVIOUS GRANT RECIPIENTS:**

- 2008: Denver Architectural Foundation CAL Program
- 2007: Nine10Arts collaboration with the Denver Child/Youth Friendly City Initiative
- 2005-06: AIA Denver Urban Design Committee, Homelessness Task Force
- 2004-05: Doors Open Denver
- 2003-04: Colorado Community Design Network
- 2002-03: "Architecture is Elementary" Program – The Denver Architectural Foundation
- 2001-02: Architectural Laboratory/Denver

#### **About AIA & AIA Denver**

*For more than 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real.*

*AIA Denver is one of four chapters within the AIA Colorado component. This chapter is comprised of members from nine counties in the metro Denver area. The voice of the profession of architecture, AIA Denver inspires and champions its members as leaders in the design of the built environment.*