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ULI Philadelphia Announces 6 Awards for Excellence Winners Recognizing Superior Regional Land Use Projects and Programs

Philadelphia – June 16, 2021 – Urban Land Institute (ULI) Philadelphia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to shaping the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide, has announced six winners for its 2021 Awards for Excellence this evening. The virtual program included nearly one hundred professionals and leaders celebrating the region’s best land use projects and programs.

The ULI Philadelphia Awards for Excellence recognizes superior development projects and programs throughout the region including Philadelphia, Central Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Valley, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey. The winners represent a variety of project types and were selected by a national jury of 12 experts based on a range of criteria including leadership in development, sustainability & building performance, market acceptance and community impact.

This year marked the seventh celebration of the Awards for Excellence, and for the first time ever jurors felt compelled to distinguish two projects for their visionary leadership. Those winners include:

Bok Building (Philadelphia, PA) received the Vision Award for Transformative Development, and for excellence in adaptive reuse, mix of uses and catalytic economic development. A former vocational high school in South Philadelphia providing affordable workspaces for over 200 businesses and non-profit organizations, incorporating a variety of neighborhood amenities, including a wellness center, dog park, rooftop bar and coffee shop. Developed and submitted by scout.

PHL Rent Assist (Philadelphia, PA) received the Vision Award for Transformative Public Policy and for excellence in public policy, community impact and overall scale and execution. An emergency rental assistance program to help landlords and tenants during COVID-19, which has distributed \$64.2M in emergency rental assistance and included launching an Eviction Diversion Program that ensured access to a housing counselor and a pre-filing mediation. Developed and submitted by Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation.

Additional winners, demonstrating the highest degree of excellence, include:

Crest Manor (Willow Grove, PA) for excellence in financial creativity, affordability and design. An affordable housing community, located in a mixed income neighborhood with accessible public transportation and high performing school district, this project serves tenants at or below 60% of area median income. Developed and submitted by Montgomery County Housing Authority.

Huntingdon Mills (Philadelphia, PA) for excellence in civic engagement, sustainability and real estate innovation. Located in the Fishtown neighborhood, a unique, civic-focused, and mission-driven development that restored the former Franklin Carpet Mills complex into an active, vibrant mixed-use

residential and commercial community developed specifically for individuals and organizations in the Health and Human Services sector. Developed and submitted by D3 Development.

Powel Elementary – Science Leadership Academy Middle School (Philadelphia, PA) for excellence in public private partnerships, education development and community engagement. A unique public and private partnership between Drexel University and the School District of Philadelphia that combines an existing K-4 school (Powel) with a recently created middle school (Science Leadership Academy) into one combined facility in West Philadelphia. Developed and submitted by Drexel University and Wexford Science + Technology.

The Discovery Center (Philadelphia, PA) for excellence in sustainable and accessible design, community partnerships and contribution to the public realm. An urban bird sanctuary and leadership development center that restores access to the East Park Reservoir, this project offers programming aimed at connecting city residents with nature and serves as a valuable educational and recreational resource to the neighboring Strawberry Mansion community. Developed by East Park Leadership and Conservation Center (Philadelphia Outward Bound School & Audubon Philadelphia), submitted by DIGSAU.

“This year we had a strong number of applicants representing all asset classes and project types” said Nolan Lienhart, Principal and Director of Planning & Urban Design, ZGF in Portland, OR and jury chair. “There were so many inspiring projects resulting in passionate deliberation, and all of the finalists should be proud of their work.”

Additional information about all the finalists can be found [here](#), and information about the national jury can be found [here](#).

ABOUT ULI PHILADELPHIA

The Urban Land Institute is a nonprofit education and research institute whose mission is to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide. Established in 1936, ULI today has more than 45,000 members around the world representing the entire spectrum of land-use and development disciplines including developers, builders, property owners, investors, architects, public officials, planners, attorneys, engineers, academics and others engaged in the land-use field. The Philadelphia District Council encompasses about 900 members throughout Eastern and Central Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey. For more information, visit philadelphia.uli.org.

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