



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Rachel McCalla
Lucky You Productions, LLC
(314) 210-7764
rachel@luckyyoustl.com

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Additional Contact:

Becky Finch, LEED AP
Boa Construction, Inc.
(314) 524-0203 ext.1775
bfinch@boaconstruction.com

Local USGBC Chapter Hosts First Annual Growing Green Awards Gala

The U.S. Green Building Council - St. Louis Regional Chapter held its inaugural Growing Green Awards on March 31, 2009. The theme of the night was "transforming the St. Louis Region's built environment into a more environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy place to live, work and play." The event exceeded expectations with a sold out crowd of 200! Originally expecting three to four nominations in each of the six categories, the planning committee was overwhelmed with categories containing up to nineteen nominations.

The Growing Green Awards Gala was held at the Coronado Ballroom and every aspect of the event was eco-friendly. From the use of reused and recycled resources for the award plaques, to local and organic food and wine, USGBC-STL kept sustainability in the forefront. Attendees included: architects, designers, contractors, and developers in the St. Louis green building community as well as representatives from municipal and educational districts throughout the region. Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis gave a heartwarming speech on the importance of building sustainably. Kyle Hunsberger, Director of Construction for Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis, emphasized that "we cannot eliminate substandard housing if we are rebuilding homes every 50 years." He concluded his speech with the plea to remember that the people occupying the homes or buildings are the foundation of building sustainably. Wind turbines, solar panels, and rain gardens are certainly important aspects," he continued, "but can be considered "green bling" compared to the improved health of the building occupants."

This awards program distinguished itself from similar programs by recognizing people and organizations that are Transforming the Built Environment and sharing their knowledge of green building and sustainable practices. By choosing judges outside of the St. Louis area, the nominations were evaluated without any preconceived notions of the people and companies. The winners of the first annual Growing Green Awards as selected by the judges were:

Innovator Category Award Winner:

WILLIAM A. KERR FOUNDATION

Residential Category Award Winner:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SAINT LOUIS
CITY OF CLAYTON

Government Category-Award Winner:

U.S. CONGRESSMAN RUSS CARNAHAN

Government Category-Special Mention:

RICHARD REILLY, BOA CONSTRUCTION
DAVID BERTORELLI

Quietly Green Category Award Winners:

PARKWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Category Award Winner:

LOFTWORKS, L.L.C.

Commercial Category Award Winner:

U.S. Green Building Council St. Louis Regional Chapter

3617 Grandel Square
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-577-0854
fax: 314-577-0298
usgbc-stl@mobot.org
www.usgbc.org/chapters/stlouis





Please see the Chapter's website at www.usgbc-stl.org for write ups and photos of the winners.

Growing Green Award Winners and Nominees are featured in the following upcoming USGBC-STL events and programs:

- May 12: 6th Annual LEED Showcase features HOK, Habitat for Humanity St. Louis and St. Louis Community College
- June 9: Program on Higher Education features Washington University, Tim Michels of Energy Solutions, Inc. and Lewis and Clark College
- August 5: Annual LEED Building Tour features Cannon Design's new LEED Registered headquarters

Next year's Growing Green Awards will be held Wednesday, March 31, 2010 and nominations will open at the first of the year.

USGBC-STL is a non-profit, membership organization that advocates for and provides education and training around sustainable building practices & principals. Founded in January 2001, the educational programs and outreach and advocacy of the USGBC-STL have played an integral role in transforming the St. Louis regional building and construction industry – there are now 24 LEED certified buildings, 30 LEED certified homes, over 100 LEED registered buildings and more than 450 LEED Accredited Professionals in the region. The organization currently has over 700 members.

**U.S. Green Building Council
St. Louis Regional Chapter**

3617 Grandel Square
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-577-0854
fax: 314-577-0298
usgbc-stl@mobot.org
www.usgbc.org/chapters/stlouis

