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News Release

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"Bearden Place" Housing Design Competition Winners Announced

Design competition supports rebuilding in North Minneapolis' Willard Homewood neighborhood

April 29, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS)—The City of Minneapolis and the Builders Outreach Foundation (BOF), the charitable arm of the Builders Association of the Twin Cities (BATC), announce the winners of the housing design competition, "Bearden Place: A Housing Competition in the Artists' Core," part of the strategy and commitment to rebuilding communities affected by foreclosure. The competition called for the design of four to seven, live/work units for the site, located at the northwest corner of Plymouth and Sheridan avenues North.

The design of **MSD/WhatWorx Collaboration** (Ira A. Keer, Sandra Gay, Tim Heitman, Gary Lampman, Robert Fischer, Donovan Hart, and Spencer Finseth) was selected as the first-place winner in the housing design competition that attracted 47 submissions from across the United States.

The jury also recognized second-place winner **Trace Jacques** of ESG Architects and third-place winner **4RM+ULA** (Nathan Johnson, James Garrett, Derek Williamson, Joseph Hang, and Kwadwo Boadi).

The judges also acknowledged three honorable mentions: **Shelter Architecture** (John Dwyer, Jackie Millea, Kurt Gough, and Colin Oglesby); **Cunningham Group** (John Cunningham, Shawn Olson, Joel Brygger, and Melissa Lockhart); **UrbanWorks Architecture** (Jeff Schoeneck, David Miller, and Christopher Wingate).

"Romare Bearden, famed African American artist for whom the development is named, left a legacy of individual expression that reflects community by imbedding diverse times, images and themes with distinctive character and a physical presence using collage as his primary medium," said **Roxanne Givens**, juror and community member, entrepreneur and philanthropist. "Bearden Place reflects Romare Bearden's artistic sensibility and **MSD/WhatWorx Collaboration** captured his essence without fault," she added.

"There were many projects with exceptional ideas that merited discussion by the jury, but the winning schemes covered the greatest number of issues most completely," said **Tom Fisher**, juror and Dean of the College of Design, University of Minnesota. "We looked for projects that were buildable within the budget, appropriate to the user group and location, and capable of advancing new ideas about affordable housing," he added.



First place winner **MSD/WhatWorx Collaboration** will receive \$10,000 in prize money and will have the first opportunity to negotiate a contract for project development services. Winning the competition does not necessarily mean the team will be awarded the commission and contract for development.



Second place winner **Trace Jacques** will receive a \$5,000 prize.



Third place winner **4RM+ULA** will receive a \$2,500 prize.

The development site is in the Willard Homewood neighborhood, rich in architectural tradition, but heavily impacted by foreclosure. In the past two years, significant resident commitment has focused efforts on revitalizing this neighborhood with a marketing campaign targeted to bringing artists into the community. The City of Minneapolis designed the competition and called upon its design community to assist in continued rebuilding of neighborhoods.

The sponsors called for innovative and creative ideas that address issues and challenges of designing high quality, affordable/entry-level home ownership; spatial flexibility and live/work space; sustainable building practices and materials; design for a range of lifestyle choices and family configurations. Market rate units could not exceed \$175,000, and the development must meet MN GreenStar Bronze Certification for new construction.

“Collaborating with the Minneapolis arts and design communities is a great opportunity for the Northside,” said **Council Member Don Samuels (Ward 5)**. “The partnership with the Builders Outreach Foundation, architects, and designers is yet another example of how the City is working with others to recover from the impacts of foreclosure in our communities,” he added.

“As a national leader in foreclosure recovery strategies Minneapolis continues rebuilding our housing market by introducing high quality sustainable housing designs,” said **Tom Streit**, Housing Policy and Development Director, City of Minneapolis. “The partnership and innovation embodied in the design competition will set a high bar to insure that our housing stock is energy efficient, well designed and meets the needs of our current and future residents.”

“The Builders Outreach Foundation is pleased to be involved in such a worthwhile endeavor,” said **Steve Williams**, Vice-Chair of BOF. “The Bearden Place project helps BOF achieve its goal of providing additional affordable housing units within the Twin Cities metro region. We at BOF view this opportunity as a win-win situation for us and the City of Minneapolis, as BOF and the City work together to build sustainable, energy efficient, and affordable housing. We look forward to a lasting relationship with the City of Minneapolis and are very excited to be a part of the Bearden Place team,” he added.

A public exhibition of the submissions will be scheduled this summer.

Jurors included **Brian Bushay**, chair of the Housing and Commercial taskforce of the Northside Neighborhood Residents Council; **Tom Fisher**, Dean, College of Design, University of Minnesota; **Roxanne Givens**, lifelong community leader, award winning entrepreneur, philanthropist, and third generation Minnesotan; **Garth Rockcastle**, Dean, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland and co-founder, Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle, LTD; **Tom Streit**, Housing Policy and Development Director, City of Minneapolis; **Steve Williams**, vice-chair, Builders Outreach Foundation of the Builders Association of the Twin Cities.

The Naming of Bearden Place

The development will be named, Bearden Place, after Romare Howard Bearden (1911-1988) whose life and art are marked by exceptional talent, encompassing a broad range of intellectual and scholarly interests, including music, performing arts, history, literature, and world art.

About the Artists' Core

The Artists' Core, a community response to the housing/foreclosure crisis, grew out of the Willard Homewood Residents Economic Development Committee meetings begun in the mid-1990's. In April 2008, there were 65 foreclosed homes in the 16-square block area now designated as the Artists' Core. Today, there are fewer than five of the original 65 homes on the market. The community continues work to ensure new families are invited to purchase homes.

For information

For more information on the design competition, see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure/Foreclosures_Steps_to_Recovery.asp.

About the Builders Outreach Foundation (BOF)

The Builders Outreach Foundation, a non profit organization, was created in 1992 by a group of volunteers as the charitable arm of BATC. Their mission is to promote home ownership through affordable housing and to contribute to the revitalization of our communities. BOF is in a unique position to access the talents of over 1,200 professional BATC member firms in the home building community. The Builders Outreach Foundation is a non profit organization that does tremendous good in our community. To support them, or for more information, contact them at Builders Outreach Foundation, 2960 Centre Pointe Drive, Roseville, MN 55113-1182, or call 651-697-1954.

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