

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**2017 Westside Prize Event Honors Best of L.A. Urbanism*****Westside Prize: Culver City HUB District: Access, City of Culver City, Ivy Station******Legacy Award: Arid Lands Institute******Design Awards Recognize Notable Architectural Achievements***

LOS ANGELES — The Westside Urban Forum (westsideurbanforum.com), the leading civic organization dedicated to land use and urban issues in west Los Angeles, will bestow its highest honors on a group of extraordinary recipients at its annual Westside Prize event Friday, June 9, 2017.

This year's event recognizes the ultimate promise of the city's rail network: that of imaginative, thoughtful transit oriented development while also acknowledging one of the region's biggest threats: the scarcity of water. And, finally, it honors a multitude of creative projects and designers making our city's built environment more attractive, dynamic, functional, and sustainable.

These are the only awards for land use and design given by an organization dedicated to urban issues on the Westside of Los Angeles, which includes the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Inglewood, Malibu, Los Angeles, Santa Monica and West Hollywood.

Westside Prize: HUB District (City of Culver City); Access Culver City (Greystar); Ivy Station (Lowe Enterprises)

The Westside Prize recognizes the first transit-oriented district developed on the Westside since the demise of the Red Car trolleys. The City of Culver City has adopted a thoughtful plan to bring residents, commerce, and business to the area surrounding its Expo Line station. Developers Greystar and Lowe Enterprises have risen to the challenge with Access Culver City and Ivy Station, respectively.

Completed last year, [Access Culver City](#) is a LEED Silver certified mixed-use development across National Boulevard from the station. It features 115 apartments and townhomes plus a 30,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space, including a branch of the Santa Monica Co-op. Now under construction, [Ivy Station](#) will be a 500,000 square-foot transit-oriented, mixed-use project with LEED-Silver certification. It will include a 148-room boutique hotel, offices, 52,000 square feet of shops and restaurants, 200 apartments, and park space immediately adjacent to the Expo Line station.

“WUF hopes these developments will set a new standard and will usher in a new way of living in and moving around the region,” said Board President Josh Stephens. “We encourage cities and developers to follow the extraordinary set by Culver City, Lowe, and Greystar.”

John Chase Legacy Award: Arid Lands Institute

The John L. Chase Legacy Award recognizes people, projects, programs, policies or academic studies that promote excellence in city-making and community-building. In the year that the drought broke, WUF recognizes the need for the Los Angeles region to confront its long-term water supply and acknowledge the complex water ecology of the region. For nearly 20 years, nonprofit think tank Arid Lands Institute (ALI), under the direction of husband-and-wife team Peter and Hadley Arnold, has done just that. Formerly a project of Woodbury University and

now an independent nonprofit housed at the L.A. Clean Tech incubator, ALI trains designers and citizens to innovate in response to hydrologic variability brought on by climate change. ALI's Drylands Resilience Initiative and its digital design tool, "Hazel," could have a profound effect on the way communities, architects, and engineers design and build infrastructure and projects to capture, retain, and distribute storm water runoff in arid environments.

"Water is the single most precious natural resource in our region," said WUF Board Member and Westside Prize Co-Chair Michele McGrath. Co-Chair Ellen Isaacs added, "The Arid Lands Institute provides invaluable education, research and outreach for Los Angeles and for all cities facing present and future water shortages."

Design Awards

This year, WUF is awarding 22 Design Awards to built and unbuilt projects throughout Los Angeles. The seven categories include schools, public/institutional, public open space, multi-unit housing, mixed-use, office, and retail. The three-person jury consisted of journalist and curator Lyra Kilston; Stuart Magruder, AIA, LEED, founder and principal of Studio Nova A Architects; and James Suhr, Principal of development firm James Suhr & Associates.

For a full list of Design Awards, please [click here](#).

Event Information

Day: Friday, June 9, 2019
Time: Doors at 11:30 a.m., program at noon
Location: Casa del Mar Hotel
1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405
Prices: \$120 nonmembers, \$95 members
Support: Tables, sponsorships, and program ads available
Registration: <http://www.westsideurbanforum.com/events>

Press passes are available for members of the media; with apologies, meals may not be available.

About Westside Urban Forum

The Westside Urban Forum (www.westsideurbanforum.org) is the premier civic organization promoting discussion of land use on Los Angeles Westside and of urban trends influencing the entire Los Angeles region. For over 25 years, some of the most dynamic and influential members of the Los Angeles land use community have taken the WUF stage to discuss planning, development, design, public policy, and related issues.

As an independent organization with a broad membership base of developers, planners, attorneys, architects, public officials, and community stakeholders, WUF encourages provocative, uncensored discussion, always with a focus on making Los Angeles a more liveable place. WUF sponsors its signature event, its monthly breakfast series featuring panel discussions, as well as annual events including the Westside Prize, the WUFfies roast, and special members-only events. A nonprofit organization, WUF is run entirely by its volunteer board, all of whom are leaders and experts in their respective fields.

Media Contacts

Josh Stephens, President, President@westsideurbanforum.com
Christyne Buteyne, Administrator, info@westsideurbanforum.com