



NEWS
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VALLEY FORWARD PRESENTS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD TO METRO LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

The newest and biggest addition to the Valley's transportation system – METRO Light Rail – won the *President's Award* (Best of Show) in Valley Forward's 29th annual Environmental Excellence Awards (EEA) program. The \$1.4 billion project, which connects the cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa in a 20-mile at-grade light rail segment featuring 28 stations and 50 vehicles, was deemed this year's most significant contribution to the Valley's livability and sustainability.

METRO has exceeded all expectations, opening Dec. 27, 2008, on time, within budget and with ridership well above projections, averaging 26,090 boardings per day in the first six months – 29 percent higher than anticipated. Saturday boardings are up 41 percent and Sunday volumes are ahead by 85 percent.

A record 150 entries were received in Arizona's oldest and most prestigious awards competition focusing exclusively on environmental initiatives. Winners were announced Sept. 12 at Valley Forward's awards gala, held in partnership with SRP. Nearly 800 community leaders attended the event at the Westin Kierland Resort. Troy Hayden of FOX 10 News served as master of ceremonies.

“While light rail won't solve the Valley's transportation challenges, it offers a flexible and cost-effective alternative to the automobile and was designed to be integrated with all modes of transport,” said Diane Brossart, president of Valley Forward. “In these challenging economic times, it's especially inspiring to see the number and caliber of new projects in our region that enhance the sustainability of our communities and quality of life for our residents.”

METRO's grand opening celebration offered free rides that drew 90,000 residents and visitors to all three communities for a premier experience on the new trains, which served 300,000 passengers in its first five days of operation.

In addition to the President's Award, METRO Light Rail also won a first-place Crescordia Award in the *Livable Communities, Multimodal Transportation & Connectivity* category. Crescordia is a Greek term meaning, “to grow in harmony,” and Valley Forward's President's Award is selected from among all Crescordia recipients. In addition, the project won two Awards of Merit, one in *Livable Communities, Public Policy/Plans* and the other in *Environmental Education/Communication, Public Sector*. Richard Simonetta, chief executive officer of METRO, accepted the awards, along with representatives of the three participating cities.

Valley Forward and SRP presented 18 first place Crescordia winners and 31 Awards of Merit through this year's Environmental Excellence Awards program. The awards set standards for achieving a balance between the built and natural environment in the region's physical, technical, social and aesthetic development.

The EEA program has become especially competitive among Valley municipalities and government agencies. This year, the City of Phoenix is associated with seven Crescordia awards, the most of any Valley community. The City of Tempe was associated with three and Scottsdale and Mesa one each.

In addition to the recognition Tempe received for its involvement in the METRO Light Rail project with Phoenix and Mesa, the city earned two Crescordia Awards for the Tempe Transportation Center, the only project to receive multiple first-place honors. The 40,000-square-foot, three-story mixed-use building that houses the city's transportation offices is awaiting platinum LEED certification.

"Environmentalism has become mainstream, yet many of the individuals and organizations we honored have been involved in the sustainability movement for decades," said Richard Hayslip, assistant general manager of SRP. "Environmental stewardship has been a guiding principal at SRP since 1903, and we're proud to celebrate the achievements of so many who share that commitment."

The Crescordia for *Environmental Stewardship – SRP Award* was presented to the City of Phoenix Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (EPP), which ensures that the fifth-largest municipality in America can conserve resources, protect the environment and even save money through choices made in purchasing carpet, computers, roofing materials and other goods. EPP is a process for comparing products and services that serve the same purpose, and purchasing the one that is better for the environment.

The city's policy initiatives date back to 1990 and include two procurement resolutions, a hazardous material purchasing policy, an Energy Task Force and a green building policy. The program integrates prior policies and an historic commitment to environmental stewardship into a comprehensive package positively impacting ecological issues and the product market in such areas as energy, water, recovered materials, fuel efficiency and alternative fuels, reuse services and sustainable forest products.

Jay Hicks, managing principal of EDAW/AECOM's Phoenix office, one of the world's largest and most comprehensive design firms, served as lead judge for the competition. A landscape architect and planner with over 25 years experience, Hicks has worked on many notable local projects, including the West Valley Recreation Corridor and El Rio, which collectively encompass more than 60 miles of rivers within the region. His design work includes the new communities of Verrado, Marley Park and Estrella, as well as the lifestyle and entertainment centers of Kierland Commons, Westgate Town Center, the W Hotel in Scottsdale and the new downtown Civic Space in Phoenix. Hicks also serves on the Board of Directors of Valley Forward. Other jurists include: Julie Henson, president of Thinking Caps Design; Peter Johnston, project manager of Burns & McDonnell; Erik Peterson, AIA, NCARB, president of Peterson Architecture & Associates, Inc.; Joan Prior, owner of Armstrong-Prior Inc.; Charles Redman, director of Arizona State University's School of Sustainability; Michele Shelor, principal of colwell : shelor; Vernon Swaback, FAIA, FAICP, managing partner of Swaback Partners; and Solange Whitehead, board member and former executive director of the Environmental Fund for Arizona.

Valley Forward is celebrating its milestone 40th anniversary year as an association that brings business and civic leaders together to convene thoughtful public dialogue on regional issues and to improve the environment and livability of Valley communities. The organization operates with the belief that business must take a leadership role in solving the complex and sometimes controversial problems that confront growing population centers.

In addition to the METRO Light Rail Project, Tempe Transportation Center and Phoenix Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program, EEA first-place Crescordia winners and recipients include:

Taylor Place: Arizona State University Downtown Student Housing (*SmithGroup, Austin Commercial, GBtwo Landscape Architecture*)

This 352,000-square-foot mixed-use urban infill project serves as an anchor to the emerging Arizona State University downtown Phoenix campus. It features two 13-story towers of residential student housing, a dining hall and multiple interaction spaces, as well as retail at the street level. The project connects people socially and to their surrounding environment. Taylor Place incorporates sustainability principles throughout, including energy and water conservation features from high efficiency glazing, increased wall insulation, programmable thermostats and Energy Star appliances to dual-flush toilets, low-flow bath fixtures and a condensate collection system for landscaping.

Hanny's (*Karl Kopp, owner; Ryden Architects, Inc., Predock + Frane Architects*)

Like the city named for the mythical Phoenix bird, the Hanny's building has risen from ashes to a new life. This exemplary historic preservation project helps strengthen the economy, environment and downtown culture by sensitively rehabilitating one of the community's most significant post-World War II commercial buildings. The clothing store, which closed in 1986, was transformed to a trendy eatery and lounge while keeping the name that was synonymous with fashion in Phoenix. The adaptive reuse is appropriate for the historic building and for the newly reinvented urban center in which it sits. The building utilizes the Northwind Phoenix District Cooling System, saving energy, avoiding a large capital expense and reducing the heat island effect.

Sundt Headquarters (*Sundt, SmithGroup*)

This environmentally responsible facility for employees of the nation's 55th-largest contractor was designed to reflect Sundt's core values – innovation, sustainability and community mindedness. Although initially designed to achieve silver LEED certification, the project has achieved gold certification, optimizing energy usage to achieve a 40.9 percent better performance than for a comparable building. Throughout the building process, Sundt and its team pioneered the use of Building Information Modeling to design its headquarters, using 3D/4D digital renderings and images of complex building components, significantly reducing material waste and paper usage, mitigating nearly all re-work and pre-fabrication and eliminating design conflicts before breaking ground. During construction, Sundt instituted a waste management program that diverted 87 percent of construction waste from landfills through recycling and reuse.

Tempe Transportation Center *(City of Tempe, Architekton + Otak, Adolfson & Peterson Construction)*

This centerpiece project at 5th Street and College Avenue serves as a hub for Tempe’s bus, bicycle, METRO Light Rail and pedestrian activity and reflects a commitment to sustainability in virtually every facet of the 40,000-square-foot, three-story mixed-use building. The project is seeking LEED platinum certification for its high-performance building envelope and integrated systems developed with computer modeling to achieve a 52 percent reduction of energy use. Natural resources were preserved and construction waste reduced by 94 percent through the use of local, rapidly renewable, recycled material content.

ASU Polytechnic Academic Campus *(Arizona State University, RSP Architects, Lake/Flato Architects, DPR Construction)*

The design transforms 16 acres of asphalt and concrete on the former Williams Air Force Base into a dense, walkable and shady campus encompassing a 245,000-square-foot program segmented into five buildings that form four landscaped courtyards. Soil and water contamination from petroleum spills and radiological waste were completely cleaned up and the site restored, with large portions of the site redeveloped into a sustainable campus featuring open spaces and vegetated areas three times larger than the building footprint. By demolishing an existing street and transforming it into a desert landscaped mall, storm water is slowed, captured in smaller retention basins throughout the new mall and used to nourish the landscape. Originally designed to achieve LEED-NC silver, the project is now expected to reach gold level certification.

Sunnyslope Office *(Marlene Imirzian & Associates, Architects, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects)*

This modest north Phoenix building faces east toward Central Avenue, the main north/south corridor of Sunnyslope, and establishes the importance of designing sustainable solutions for the small, abandoned urban lots that pervade the area. The renovation transforms a stark, heat-generating site into a cool, multilayered oasis that buffers the building from movement and noise of the street and creates a canopy that shades it from the hot Arizona sun. The design team focused on re-creating the identity of the building without demolishing any of the existing structure or adding new square footage to the 40-year-old building. The repurposed, permeable driveway provides an opportunity for water infiltration into the surrounding vegetation. Xeriscaping creates a layered forecourt and shaded exterior activity space.

“HABITAT” at the Phoenix Convention Center *(City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, A Dye Design)*

The living wall and garden at the Phoenix Convention Center is inspired by the sheltered canyon habitats found in the Sonoran Desert and the settlement of Hohokam Indians who once lived on the Convention Center site. Designed to maximize use of limited water resources, the wall and garden thrive on condensate produced by the convention center’s air conditioning system – moisture that otherwise would slip down the drain into the city’s sanitary sewer system. This innovative project demonstrates how gardens and architecture can do more than just exist together; they make it possible for the other to thrive – the building supplies the desert gardens with condensate water and the landscape provides comfortable outdoor gathering spaces.

Tempe Transportation Center Plaza & Green Roof *(City of Tempe, A Dye Design)*

This project is the city's first to establish a goal of LEED certification and is a model for sustainable design in the Southwest. Inspired by the fragmented rock of Tempe Butte, sacred to Native Americans, designers used multihued pavers of varying sizes to create the alluvial fan paving pattern as a means of interpreting the geology of the land and linking the natural and urban environments. The site was laid out and oriented to respond to yearly solar cycles and leaves as much area as possible for pedestrian circulation through the plaza, which includes 13 bus bays providing regional and local service. A 15,000-gallon storm water recovery system collects and filters water from the roof, transit plaza and site maintenance operations, then uses the recycled water for drip irrigation to the low water-use shrubs and trees on the plaza and a living green roof.

The Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve *(City of Scottsdale, Weddle Gilmore/JJR Floor)*

Preserving nearby open spaces and providing easy access and connectivity were guiding principles in the design and development of the Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve in Scottsdale. From the Gateway visitors can access a network of more than 45 miles of trails within the preserve. Volunteers working with city staff dedicated 4,200 hours of community service, salvaging well over 1,500 cacti for revegetation of the site. Habitat restoration included collecting, storing and replacing the natural desert surface with plant litter that contains rich organic matter and native seeds. Renewable energy produced by the 18 kilowatt solar system generates as much electricity as the Gateway consumes, leading to a net zero energy consumption for the Trailhead. Optimum rainwater harvesting occurs by collecting 50,000 gallons of rainwater annually that lands on the roof and is then stored underground, providing 100 percent of the landscape irrigation.

Civic Space Park *(City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department, EDAW/AECOM, Swan Architects, Architekton)*

Nestled into a 2.77-acre site in the heart of downtown Phoenix, Civic Space Park is bounded by First and Central Avenues and Van Buren and Fillmore Streets. It was created through a partnership between the city and Arizona State University, bringing a vibrant mix of gathering spaces, storefronts and respite to a developing urban core. This unique and special environment was created through the use of sustainable design techniques, including pervious concrete surfaces, recycled and local materials, interactive water features and programmable spaces to meet the diverse needs of a variety of users. A lighted interactive water feature treats and recycles water, adding a cooling element.

Her Secret is Patience *(City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture, Janet Echelman)*

This monumental outdoor sculpture suspended 100 feet above the new Phoenix Civic Space Park is an iconic kinetic form that maps the beauty of desert light and winds. It casts what the artist calls "shadow drawings," much like those of clouds gliding over the landscape. The sculpture's supple netted form reveals the choreography of breezes more easily felt than seen. Like the phases of the moon and season, the sculpture's illuminated nighttime presence changes constantly through the year. This masterful public art project by internationally renowned artist Janet Echelman makes an important statement about fostering a sense of place, community and pride by thoughtfully integrating the natural and built environments.

ASU Campus Solarization (*David Brixen, Arizona State University, APS*)

ASU has been “solarizing” its campus since 2004 and has now become the largest solar installation at a U.S. university and any utility customer in the state – 1.88 megawatts. Four photovoltaic electric systems were installed in the last two years, generating enough electricity to power 275 homes – the equivalent of taking 420 cars off the road and averting more than 4.9 million pounds of carbon dioxide gas. ASU owns the system on Biodesign Buildings A and B; the other three are owned by Sun Devil Solar, LLC. The university will purchase electricity generated by the systems from this private party under terms of a 15-year agreement. ASU has an additional 8.6 megawatts of projects planned for completion before the end of 2009.

Burgis Envirolutions (*Richard Burgis, Burgis Envirolutions*)

The Organic Refuse Conversion Alternative developed by Burgis Envirolutions utilizes micro-biological technology to effectively dispose of up to 2,400 pounds of food waste per day. The resulting by-product is a nutrient rich effluent, similar in consistency to water, that functions as an excellent “compost tea.” In addition, the effluent can be used in place of potable water in standard grey water applications. This innovative technology conserves water, helps eliminate waste, preserves land and mitigates air pollution by dramatically decreasing the number of waste-hauling trucks needed for a typical transfer. Running the Organic Refuse Conversion Alternative requires minimal energy and water consumption. The units can compost between 400 to 2,400 pounds of food waste daily. The potential for this unique technology appears significant.

Bag Central Station – Where Plastic Bags Belong (*City of Phoenix Public Works Department*)

Every day, thousands of plastic bags are used by Phoenix residents, creating a major source of litter and harm to the environment. To combat the problem, Phoenix staff reached out to local grocers through the Arizona Food Marketers Alliance, the Arizona Retailers Association and the carry-out restaurant industry to implement a voluntary plastic bag recycling program: “Bag Central Station – Where Plastic Bags Belong.” Campaign elements include placing recycling containers for plastic bags in major Phoenix retail outlets, communicating the “reduce, reuse, recycle” message on all carry-out plastic bags in the city and making reusable shopping bags available in stores. More than 1.2 million pounds of plastic have been returned to grocery stores for recycling, and the solid waste stream at Phoenix Material Recovery Facilities have shown a 20 percent decline in the number of bags found in blue recycling barrels.

Deer Valley High School Outdoor Classroom (*Tom Boone, Deer Valley Unified School District*)

Deer Valley High School was a steward of the environment long before the green movement went mainstream. The school’s involvement began with three science teachers who led a collaborative effort to turn a barren strip of land on the north edge of campus into an outdoor classroom. Now, 30 years later, this habitat project has become a desert oasis featuring Creosote, Palo Verde, Saguaro and Cholla, as well as a variety of wildlife. The pond is home to two endangered species of Arizona fish – the Desert Pup Fish and Gila Top Minnow – and two desert owls were donated to the campus for lesson presentations. The impressive project is the result of many people and organizations working together. Some 12,000 Deer Valley High School students have gone through classes in the natural environmental classroom and another 8,000 have visited as part of field trips.

Adaptive Reuse Program (City of Phoenix Development Services Department)

Through its Adaptive Reuse Program, the City of Phoenix has significantly enhanced its services for small businesses seeking to undertake these types of projects and contribute to a more sustainable future. The city established an Adaptive Reuse Task Force in 2008 and immediately began meeting with stakeholders to get input. The resulting work plan contains significant accomplishments that meet the goal of safety and quality development while providing the customer with practices and code changes that reduce costs and timeframes. This important program promotes recycling at the highest level – taking buildings that are either historical, dated or in older established areas of the city and ensuring their sustainability long into the future.

A complete list of 2009 Environmental Excellence Award Winners is included on the pages that follow:



ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS WINNERS – EMBARGO, SEPT. 13, 2009

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Multi-Family Residential

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Taylor Place: Arizona State University Downtown Student Housing
Submitted by: SmithGroup

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Historic Preservation

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: HANNY'S
Submitted by: Ryden Architects, Inc.

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Engrained Café @ Arizona State University Memorial Union
Submitted by: FM GROUP INC

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Office, Commercial & Mixed Use

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Sundt Headquarters
Submitted by: Olson Communications

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: After Hours Building
Submitted by: [merz] Project Architecture.Interiors.Urban Design

Name of Entry: Black Rock Studio
Submitted by: Weddle Gilmore

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Industrial & Public Works

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Tempe Transportation Center
Submitted by: City of Tempe

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Sunrise Mountain Library
Submitted by: City of Peoria Sunrise Mountain Library

Name of Entry: Paradise Valley Fire Station No. 1
Submitted by: LEA - Architects

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Public Assembly

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: ASU Polytechnic Academic Complex
Submitted by: RSP Architects & DPR Construction

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: The Life Science Building (Glendale Community College)
Submitted by: Gould Evans Associates

Name of Entry: City of Phoenix/ASU, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Submitted by: HDR Architecture, Inc.

SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE

Residential

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Haver House
Submitted by: Douglas Architecture and Planning

SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE

Office, Commercial & Mixed Use

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Sunnyslope Office
Submitted by: Marlene Imirzian & Associates, Architects

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: SkySong, ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center in Partnership with the City of Scottsdale
Submitted by: SkySong Holdings, LLC & City of Scottsdale

SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE

Urban Plazas

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: "HABITAT" at the Phoenix Convention Center
Submitted by: City of Phoenix: Office of Arts & Culture

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Phoenix Art Museum
Submitted by: Ten Eyck Landscape Architects

SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE

Industrial & Public Works

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Tempe Transportation Center Plaza & Green Roof
Submitted by: A Dye Design

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Taylor Mall
Submitted by: Ten Eyck Landscape Architects

SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE

Trails

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: The Gateway to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
Submitted by: Weddle Gilmore/JJR Floor

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Western Powerline Trail
Submitted by: J2 Engineering and Environmental Design

SITE DEVELOPMENT & LANDSCAPE

Parks

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Civic Space Park
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Chaparral Park
Submitted by: Thinking Caps Design

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Her Secret is Patience
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture Public Art Program

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: The Passive Solar Light Engine
Submitted by: City of Phoenix: Office of Arts & Culture

Name of Entry: Phoenix Convention Center Public Art Project
Submitted by: Phoenix Convention Center

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

Public Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: ASU Campus Solarization
Submitted by: Arizona Public Service (APS)

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: The Unified Plant 2001 (UP01) Expansion Completion Project at the 91st Avenue
Wastewater Treatment Plant: Wastewater Treatment from a Facility Integrated into the
Environment it Protects
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Water Services Department

Environmental Excellence Awards/Add 9

Name of Entry: Context Sensitive Flood Hazard Mitigation Planning & Design Model
Submitted by: Flood Control District of Maricopa County

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

Private Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Burgis Envirolutions
Submitted by: Burgis Envirolutions

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Kitchell Construction Waste Management Program
Submitted by: Kitchell Contractors

Name of Entry: Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa, Gainey Ranch/Solar Thermal Hot Water System
Submitted by: Arizona Public Service (APS)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION

Public Sector

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Bag Central Station-Where Plastic Bags Belong
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Public Works Department

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Water Conservation Collateral Material
Submitted by: City of Avondale

Name of Entry: METRO Grand Opening
Submitted by: METRO

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION

Private Sector

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: CB Richard Ellis-Phoenix Asset Services
Submitted by: CB Richard Ellis

Name of Entry: APS Steve Nash Campaign
Submitted by: Arizona Public Service (APS)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/COMMUNICATION

Educators, Students and Non-Profit Organizations

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Deer Valley High School Outdoor Classroom
Submitted by: Valley Schools

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Landscape Plants Online
Submitted by: Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – *SRP AWARD*

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: City of Phoenix Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Programs
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: U-Haul Environmental Stewardship
Submitted by: U-Haul International

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Multi-modal Transportation & Connectivity

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: METRO Light Rail Project
Submitted by: METRO

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: Green Cabs for Blue Skies
Submitted by: Total Transit DBA Discount Cab

Name of Entry: Valley Metro LINK Bus
Submitted by: Valley Metro

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Resource Management

AWARD OF MERIT

Name of Entry: City of Peoria Butler Drive Water Reclamation Facility
Submitted by: Black & Veatch

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Public Policy/Plans

CRESCORDIA

Name of Entry: Adaptive Reuse Program
Submitted by: City of Phoenix Development Services Department

AWARDS OF MERIT

Name of Entry: APS Renewable Energy Incentive Program
Submitted by: Arizona Public Service (APS)

Name of Entry: TOD in the Valley of the Sun
Submitted by: METRO

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Name of Entry: METRO Light Rail Project
Submitted by: METRO