



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2009

CALL FOR ENTRIES

--2009 Ad Astra Awards for Excellence in Housing & Community Development--

Topeka, KS - The 2009 Kansas Housing Conference now welcomes nominations for this year's ***Ad Astra Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development***. The Ad Astra Awards celebrate housing advocates who consistently make a positive impact on their communities and best practices of affordable housing developers, public housing authorities, community service organizations and others.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

Special Achievement in Affordable Housing Development: Urban & Rural

This category recognizes excellence in the development of affordable owner or rental housing. Two awards will be presented: one for affordable housing developments serving urban areas, the second for those serving rural areas. Developments may include new construction, renovation or adaptive reuse, and should reflect highest standards in quality and sustainability.

Excellence in Partnership Award

This award honors the achievement of multiple organizations partnering together to develop programs or services that promote or expand access to affordable housing.

Outstanding Housing Advocate Award

In this category, we will recognize an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in developing and advancing state or local legislation in support of affordable housing or community development initiatives.

Affordable Housing "Trail Blazer" Award

This award celebrates an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and service in responding to affordable housing or community development needs within the state of Kansas.

Innovation in Housing and Community Development

Our final category honors achievement in the creation of affordable owner or rental housing, or community development programs or services featuring innovation in any of the following areas: design, universal design, development, financing, construction, collaboration, management, energy conservation, accessibility, special needs, historic preservation and adaptive reuse, mixed-use or mixed-income.

DEADLINE! The deadline to submit nominations for the Ad Astra Awards is Wednesday, July 1st, 2009. Download the nomination form today.

<http://www.kshousingconference.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/adastranomform09.pdf>

Organizations are encouraged to nominate their own or others' projects, programs or staff. Multiple nominations are encouraged. A development or program may be submitted for multiple categories. The development and/or program nominated must be in operation for at least a year. For housing developments, the first phase construction activity must be complete.

Nominations will be reviewed by a selection panel comprised of public and private sector housing, development, policy and service professionals. The selection panel will consider:

- Measurable benefits to affordable housing and community development in Kansas.
- The degree to which the project or program can be replicated.
- How well the project or program responds to an identified problem or opportunity.
- The extent to which community partners are involved in the development and operation of the project program.
- Winning recipients must be available to conduct a workshop presentation during the conference in Overland Park.

Note: The selection panel will not be obliged to make awards in all categories.

Ad Astra award winners will be recognized during a breakfast ceremony Thursday, August 20th, 2009 at the Overland Park Convention Center. For more information about this year's Ad Astra Awards or the 2009 Kansas Housing Conference, please contact Catherine Couch of Kansas Housing Resources Corporation at 785-296-0081, ccouch@kshousingcorp.org.

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

Visit www.kshousingconference.org to sign up for email updates.

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2009 Kansas Housing Conference: August 19th - 21st, 2009
Overland Park Convention Center

For more information, visit www.kshousingconference.org