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Oklahoma's Planning Awards Recipients to be Honored at Quad State Conference

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Oklahoma) recently announced the winners of the 2015 Planning Awards Program. The awards honor outstanding plans, best practices, and innovative concepts throughout Oklahoma. The four award winners will be recognized at the 2015 Quad-State Planning Conference in Kansas City, Missouri on October 23, 2015.

“This is the first year of the newly established Awards Program. It was discontinued many years ago, and I’m happy to reinstate it during my term,” said APA Oklahoma President Paula Dennison. Nominees were asked to submit a project description, along with support letters, plans, maps, renderings, and photos as appropriate. A bi-state jury of seven professional planners from Oklahoma and Arkansas reviewed and rated the submissions using a scoring matrix. “Three recipients were selected to receive Outstanding Planning Awards, and one recipient was selected to receive a Great Neighborhood, Street, or Public Space Award,” noted Dennison.

The 2015 Outstanding Plan is awarded to the City of Edmond, Freese and Nichols, Inc., and Catalyst Group for their submission of the *Downtown Edmond Master Plan*. The plan provides Edmond with a physical framework and prioritized actions to promote downtown Edmond and begin implementing past plans and newly identified opportunities.

The 2015 Outstanding Community Initiative is awarded to the City of Midwest City, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Red Cross for their submission of the *Midwest City Storm Shelter Program*. The multi-faceted program has registered and mapped more than 2680 shelters and put in place an emergency management strategy.

The 2015 Outstanding Student Project is awarded to University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture; Family Legacy Missions International; and Raymond Harris & Associates Architects for their submission of the *Tree of Life II Master Plan*. Five Regional and City Planning Masters students and two Architecture undergraduates produced a master plan for a “children’s village” in Lusaka, Zambia that would house orphaned and vulnerable children.

The 2015 Great Street Award is presented to the City of Broken Arrow for their submission of *Main Street Broken Arrow*. With its historic character, pedestrian scale, traffic calming and stormwater control measures, this corridor has become a vibrant arts and entertainment district with activity both day and night.

“We are proud of these projects and excited to be able to honor them at an inaugural conference that will bring in planners from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas,” said Dennison.

For additional information about the APA Oklahoma Awards Program, visit:
<http://okplanning.org/awards.html>.

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association (<http://okplanning.org/>) is an independent, not-for-profit educational and professional organization. We further the mission of National APA (<http://www.planning.org>) in advancing the art, science and profession of good planning-- physical, economic, and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live in Oklahoma.

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