

News Release

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2011 Arizona Housing Forum



Phoenix development and City Councilman among those honored at 2011 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards

Scottsdale – At a mid-day luncheon during the Eighth Annual Arizona Housing Forum, a Phoenix area development and City Councilman will garner awards in categories that recognize outstanding affordable housing initiatives for moderate and low-income Arizona families and elected officials in the community who have taken an active role in addressing numerous housing issues. The award recognitions will feature Arizona Department of Housing Director, Michael Trailor as emcee and will be held at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The awards are named in honor of the outstanding service that the late Brian Mickelsen shared with the Arizona Housing Finance Authority and serves as a lasting tribute to the former Cottonwood city manager's public service.

The **Outstanding Affordable Housing Initiative Award** will be presented to Devine Legacy on Central for their innovative planning and ability to integrate critical supportive services with energy efficiency and superior design.

Native American Connections' Devine Legacy on Central is an exciting and vibrant LEED-certified affordable housing community that incorporates the important components of high density zoning, multi-use spaces, mixed-income residents and transit oriented development in the central neighborhood of Phoenix.

This outstanding development offers residents unique opportunities to find a live-work-play environment that is always mindful of their cultural identity, their personal and family needs and their workforce stability.

Recognizing an Arizona elected official who has demonstrated ongoing support for affordable housing projects and programs including housing for homeless, domestic violence, special needs and low income families and seniors; Councilman Tom Simplot will be presented with the 2011 **Elected Official Award**.

Councilman Simplot was first elected to the Phoenix City Council in 2003 in a special election to replace outgoing councilmember Phil Gordon. After being re-elected in 2005, he was unanimously voted by his fellow council members to serve as Vice Mayor.

Councilman Simplot has dedicated tremendous efforts to finding permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless which he believes will go a long way towards bringing stability to our community. In addition to his post on the Phoenix City Council, Mr. Simplot is the president/CEO of the Arizona Multi-housing Association. Councilman Simplot continues to demonstrate his commitment to providing supportive housing to our communities' most vulnerable populations and the critical need for affordable housing in cities.

Additional 2011 Honorees:

Additional annual housing awards will be presented in five other categories. The **Innovative Supportive Housing Program Award** recognizes creative programs and services that provide outstanding housing related support and resources to individuals. 51 Homes Tucson will receive this award for their commitment to combating homelessness and providing supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Foundation for Senior Living's Yuma Senior Terraces project in Yuma, Arizona will be recognized with the **Exemplary Rural Multifamily Project Award** for their innovative design and dedication to providing a healthy living environment for seniors in our community.

The **Exemplary Urban Multifamily Project Award** will be presented to Depot Plaza / Martin Luther King Revitalization Project for their unique design and ability to transform a decaying neighborhood, in Tucson, into a vibrant and exciting neighborhood.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe will receive the **Tribal Initiatives Award** recognizing their achievements to help meet the housing needs of tribal members in Arizona.

The final annual award, **Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing Award**, will recognize Olga Osterhage for her lifetime of service and dedication to enhancing our communities through improved public housing.

About the 2011 Housing Forum:

Now in its eighth year, the Annual Arizona Housing Forum continues to attract large numbers of housing professionals looking to explore new strategies and ideas on the housing industry's foremost issues. This year's conference highlights include keynotes by Michael Traylor, Director of the Arizona Department of Housing; Arizona State University Research Professor, Dr. Lee McPheters; Fred Karnas, Senior Advisor to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and Michael Yankoski, author of *Under the Overpass*.

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