



2018 GALA

Recognizing innovation in affordable housing

April 26, 2018 Sheraton Denver West Hotel

2018 List of Nominees

People

Diane Leavesley has had a career in affordable housing development both in and outside of Colorado. She has worked in some of the hardest places to develop affordable housing including inner cities and Native American Reservations. She also worked at Division of Housing where she oversaw their affordable housing portfolio and is now the 3rd Executive Director at Douglas County Housing Partnership.

Sandy Maben has worked for Mercy Loan Fund for 18 years and has been on the board of commissioners for Metro West Housing Solutions (MWHS) for that same amount of time. Both of these organizations are geared specifically towards the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Colorado.

Gete Mekonnen is a community development expert with a 30-year success record. He is originally from Ethiopia, and went on to earn his masters in community development/city planning from Ohio State. He has worked his way up from a grass roots organizer to the executive director of a nationally recognized and respected non-profit community Development Corporation in Denver; Northeast Denver Housing Center.

Daniel Morgan has been an industry leader for more than 25 years and created Daniel G. Morgan & Associates. He has worked on hundreds of projects across the state. Dan is widely recognized as an expert on finance, deal structure and tax credit law. His open collaborative approach has helped foster an amazing spirit of cooperation within our development community.

Programs

Colorado Disaster Recovery Home Access Program is the State's Home Access Program assisting households and communities whose private roads, bridges, and other crossings to homes were damaged or destroyed by the September 2013 floods or one of the preceding wildfires. Homes located in remote canyon areas are typically accessed via privately owned bridges rather than publicly owned and maintained ones.

Bridges to Opportunity program is collaboration between the Arvada Housing Authority and the Arvada Community Food Bank. The program aims to help the participants move beyond basic survival and strive for self-sufficiency. This is accomplished by providing case management services to the participants in combination with housing. AHA has dedicated twenty-five of their HUD Section 8 vouchers for this program.

Eaton's Housing Plus Services primary focus is on creating an innovative, creative and integrated Culture of Wellness for its residents whose ages average 80 years old. Eaton provides a broad array of on-site affordable services at no-or low-cost, including wellness coaching, dental hygiene, various therapies, acupuncture, exercise classes and more.

Interested in sponsorship? Email emily@housingcolorado.org for more info.



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Projects

Ashley Union Station provides the only affordable housing development in the Union Station Neighborhood. Its location combines prime living in one of downtown's best neighborhoods as well as location in the region's multi-modal transportation hub. For the many people that work in downtown Denver, but otherwise cannot afford to live downtown, the Ashley provides an option to do both.

Beloved Community Tiny Home Village in Denver pursued the innovative approach of using vacant owned land to house vulnerable members in the community through temporary and transitional housing. The 11 sleeping units share bathing units and community space and are helping 15 residents with much needed stability, and help to lay the groundwork for successful futures.

Copper Point Townhomes is Summit Combined Housing Authority's opportunity for fifteen families of moderate income to live in townhomes in Summit County. 25 individuals, most employed at critical resort or community jobs, have established a housing foothold. 100% of the project is deed restricted with both buyer income-caps as well as a 30 hour/week minimum year-round work requirement.

Fruitdale School Lofts was transformed from a former historic school originally designed by Temple Buell to workforce housing in Wheat Ridge. The project includes 16 affordable rent apartments, with unique historical features such as chalkboards, basketball hoops and huge windows. To keep utility costs down, the land features a solar farm and a fruit orchard.

Hidden Lake Homes in Westminster is home to 72 independent living seniors with 25% of them dedicated to section 8 vouchers. This neighborhood has undergone a rapid revitalization and is close to transit and walkable to local stores and businesses. Some added amenities include an art studio, library, and an exam room for visiting medical personnel.

The Highlands is the first senior community in Western Colorado to mix independent living with a robust barrier-free living design and integrated service options. While the property has 8 ADA units, the remaining 56 units provide ease of mobility for all residents. Some on-site services include fresh vegetables and fruit brought in by local churches, healthy cooking and safe meal prep classes.

Meadows at Montbello offers 84 income-restricted apartments for low- and moderate-income seniors, aged 62 and older in this Denver neighborhood. The development is located adjacent to the VOA's Montbello Manor, and shares a one acre park between the buildings.

The Reserves at Steamboat Springs was the first in the area to use a 9% tax credit allocation. The 48-unit apartments are used by the area's workforce and allows them to live close to work and play while being able to enjoy an on-site fitness center, basketball court and pet friendly facilities.

Terraza Del Sol was able to leverage its development site to not only provide affordable housing, but a Denver non-profit headquarters on the first floor. Over 85% of the 42-units are restricted to low and very-low income tenants. The second floor incorporates an indoor playground and multi-use court.

Village on Redwood in Fort Collins was first created through the 2012 Charrette's program. The 72 apartments have 1 to 3 bedroom floorplans. The property is next to bike lane friendly streets, a trailhead and bus services. It was designed in partnership with the City of Fort Collins natural areas program.

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