



Alliance To Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods

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A.C.O.R.N. ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THIRD ANNUAL 'GOLDEN HAMMER' AWARDS IN PRESERVATION

(Richmond, VA) A city with roots four centuries deep, Richmond has a wide spread of houses and landscape features that trace the growth of neighborhoods, commercial development and historic events. *The Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods* (A.C.O.R.N.) works to preserve these buildings and landscapes, which give the city its unique character. To encourage excellence in the areas of renovation, restoration, and preservation advocacy, A.C.O.R.N. presents annually its Golden Hammer Awards.

This year's recipients will be honored on Thursday, September 26th, 6 to 8 pm, at the historic Neil Ray House, 3501 Seminary Avenue. Tickets to the event, which is open to the public, are \$25 per person. For reservations call A.C.O.R.N. at (804) 422-2148. Nominees and recipients of this year's Golden Hammer Awards include:

Andrew Asch Historic Developer Award

Shane Parr, who has been involved in real estate development for 15 years, is responsible for the renovation—or is in the process of renovating-- large-scale historic buildings including two pre-Civil-War tobacco factories, a vacant hospital, and a sumptuous 1908 residence on the hospital grounds. Parr's company, Arete Investment Company, is located in the old Korman Furniture Building at 27 West Broad St.

Parr's first downtown project involved the conversion of an 1852 tobacco warehouse—the Grant Tobacco Factory Building-- into a mixed-use project called "Shockoe Place" with 46 apartments and 4,000 square feet of office space. During the Civil War, the Confederate States of America leased the Grant Tobacco Factory Building, located at 19th and East Franklin streets, and used it as a hospital. Parr is developing the nearby Taylor Tobacco Building, also built and

designed in 1852 by the same builder/architect, Samuel Freeman. The rehabilitated building will keep its more contemporary name-- the Superior Building—and have 28 apartments.

In Northside's Ginter Park, Parr is in the process of converting the former Richmond Memorial Hospital into a project of mixed-use, including a variety of residential products. The original property home "Laburnum," built in 1908 for the Bryan family, will be preserved and made available for social functions and community use. It had been used previously as administrative offices for the hospital.

The Andrew Asch award is named after the late developer, one of Richmond's leading preservationists of the last half century, who popularized the practice of adaptive reuse by transforming derelict warehouses in Shockoe Slip into a prosperous business and restaurant district and tourist destination.

Marguerite Crumley Preservation Award

Commonwealth Architects and its founders Douglas J. Harnsberger, AIA, and Robert S. Mills, AIA, will receive the Marguerite Crumley Preservation Award.

Commonwealth Architects has contributed to a large number of high-profile adaptive reuse/rehabilitation/infill projects throughout Virginia, including these in Richmond: Shockoe Place Apartments at 19th and East Franklin streets (an 1852 tobacco warehouse conversion); the Carriage House at 114 North Second St.; Shockoe Plaza, a sensitive infill project in Shockoe Slip; Linden Tower Apartments (formerly a medical building); 1309-11 East Cary St. (adaptive reuse of a former warehouse into a project of mixed use); 1701 East Main St. (adaptive reuse of an abandoned retail building into a project of mixed use); Libbie Hill Park House rehabilitation; and two architecturally significant buildings on East Grace street-- Richmond Art Company Building and the Winston House.

Current rehabilitation/adaptive reuse/infill projects include: The Academy of Music in Lynchburg (combination of rehabilitation and infill); Cary Court Park and Shop (rehabilitation of this 1938 Carytown Shopping Center); the adaptive reuse of the former Stuart Circle Hospital into luxury apartments and office use; the Beacon Theatre rehabilitation in Hopewell; the adaptive reuse of the former Richmond Memorial Hospital into a project of mixed use; the rehabilitation of the Sam Miller Restaurant buildings in Shockoe Slip; and the adaptive reuse of the former Richmond Cold Storage buildings into a project of mixed use.

Commonwealth Architects principals Harnsberger and Mills have personally contributed countless hours promoting preservation issues and working legislatively to preserve incentives for rehabilitation such as federal and state historic tax credits and the city's tax abatement program. Both have devoted time pro bono to ensure historic design on projects

citywide. Both are former chairmen of the Commission of Architectural Review (CAR), which is responsible for design criteria in designated Old and Historic Districts. Mills continues to serve on the CAR.

Preservation Advocacy Awards

A.C.O.R.N. will present Preservation Advocacy Awards to two organizations—**Citizens Advocating Responsible Riverfront Development (CARRD)** and **Scenic Virginia**—for promoting responsible development along the historic James River.

Scenic Virginia is a nonprofit organization that supports public and private actions to strengthen the appearance of Virginia's landscapes and communities. Scenic Virginia has worked over the past year to ensure that development along the Richmond riverfront proceeds in a manner that will bring much-needed revenue to the city while preserving the historic view sheds of the James River that are a destination for Richmond's tourists and citizens.

Last fall, Scenic Virginia assisted **CARRD** (Citizens Advocating Responsible Riverfront Development—a coalition of 24 neighborhood, historic, and environmental groups from around the city in response) in its efforts opposing corporate plans for a high-rise office building that would block views of the James River from Oregon Hill Riverside Park. The coalition was successful in preventing the corporation's request for B-4 zoning, which would have allowed unlimited height along this sensitive stretch of the James River. Instead, the corporation received B-5 zoning, which has a 60-foot height limit, and needed to apply for a special use permit for additional height.

This spring, Scenic Virginia took the lead in opposing a zoning ordinance that would permit a wall of 150-foot high buildings to be built along the riverfront east of downtown. Scenic Virginia organized citizen groups, consulted with City Planning staff, and educated elected officials (and the potential developers) about the merits of zoning alternatives that would allow development to proceed but would also preserve the historic views from Libby Hill Park that gave Richmond its name. In July, City Council gave overwhelming approval to responsible zoning ordinances.

Members of CARRD and Scenic Virginia continued to work together on another riverfront development project, Rockett's Landing, where they succeeded in having the zoning changed from industrial use to one more sensitive to the environment and surrounding neighborhoods.

GOLDEN HAMMER NOMINEES

Winners to be announced at the ceremony

Best Residential Renovation

2901 Third Avenue, Mark Coleman

7 West Clay Street, Anne David and Thomas Johnson

2106 East Broad Street, Van Nall

2327 Monument Avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry B. Pope, Jr.

Best Commercial Renovation

Richmond Free Press, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Boone, Sr., Owners

Tredegar Trust Building, John Mason Antrim, President

Parson's House, Robin Miller, Developer

Dose Coffee Bar, Ronald Stallings, Developer

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Richmond Regional School Board

Best Renovation by a Nonprofit

Downtown YWCA

Sacred Heart Church

Beth Ahabah

Best in Neighborhood Preservation

Highland Park Restoration and Preservation Program

Southside Community Development & Housing Corporation

Historic Monument Avenue & Fan District Association

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