LOS ANGELES

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Julie Du Brow, Communications
Julie@dubroworks.com, 310-922-1301

5th Annual Sustainable Innovation Awards Announced at U.S. Green Building Council-L.A. Chapter Green Gala

Los Angeles, CA (November 13, 2015) – Last night at its 11th Green Gala, the Los Angeles Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC-LA) presented its 5th Annual Sustainable Innovation Awards across thirteen categories (listed below), with the *Project of the Year* awarded to the LEED Platinum Pico Branch Library in Santa Monica, CA. L.A.'s "Oscars" of green building, the awards reflect the Chapter's emphasis on energy and water savings, air quality, good design, and community engagement.

In addition to *Project of the Year*, the Pico Branch Library also earned *the Water Efficiency Honor* and the *Innovation in Design Honor*. Designed to demonstrate the City of Santa Monica's commitment to conserving and improving the quality of its water, the Library's roof collects, filters and reuses rainwater for toilet and urinal flushing. These strategies conserve potable water, and also relieve the single biggest source of pollution to the Santa Monica Bay.

Awards co-chair Patti Harburg-Petrich, Senior Associate of Structures at Walter P. Moore & Associates, stated, "In our time of drought and going forward, such water measures are an exceptional model. But to make this happen, the extensive cooperation between the City and design team stood out on this project by going beyond the political hurdle associated with greywater reuse implementation. Kudos to all involved!"

The awards also featured a new category, the *Health & Wellness Merit*, which was presented to the MLK Ancillary Building, part of a 42-acre campus for the MLK Outpatient Center master plan in East Los Angeles. The project is for the traditionally underserved community, and includes local job creation (during and after construction) and academic opportunities, economic development, and key community empowerment working with a local artist on the site's artwork. The LEED Gold (Healthcare) project's large cafeteria and healing garden provide large, naturally-lit public gathering spaces. The Health & Wellness category reflects a broadening understanding of how a positive environment including access to light and nature affect work productivity, as well as mental and physical health.

"This has been a great year for extending sustainability throughout the City and region with green building projects that truly affect everyone, personally and professionally," stated Awards co-chair Robyn Eason, Group Manager, Certification, for GBCI. "From schools to the convention center, from a parking structure and government office to libraries, this year's projects are some of the strongest to reflect the highest levels of our judging criteria of innovation, community impact and team collaboration."

All the awarded projects go above and beyond standard practices and use innovative strategies that can be used as a model for future sustainable design and construction. Some highlighted features of the projects include construction & demo waste diversion, integrative process of systems that improved occupant experience, under-floor air distribution, conscientious historic building renovation, dynamic aesthetic of building skin that helps enliven the streetscape, and extensive post-occupancy evaluation.

The awards honor premier projects that have already been envisioned, designed and/or built, recognizing exceptional achievement and innovation in each *Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design* (LEED) category for countywide certified projects from the past four years. The submissions attract project teams throughout Los Angeles County's sustainable community and are awarded regardless of LEED certification achieved.

"We received submissions of great breadth and depth, along with quite an uptick in the *number* of submissions," noted USGBC-LA Executive Director Dominique Hargreaves. "This correlates with a recent USGBC study that found green building is outpacing overall construction growth in the U.S., with California as one of the strongest U.S. markets of green building and LEED certification, as well as resulting economic impact."

The Awards were presented during the Green Gala at Los Angeles' historic Union Station in front of a guest list of over 500 top industry professionals from local government, real estate owners and developers, architects, engineers, contractors, and LEED professionals. USGBC-LA works with anyone who is interested and engaged in collaborative sustainable initiatives.

In addition to the Awards, the Green Gala officially kicked off the one-year countdown to Los Angeles hosting the biggest annual green building event in the world, the Greenbuild International Conference & Expo (October 2016). Attracting over 30,000 global attendees, Greenbuild offers the hosting city a premier opportunity to showcase model projects across its region through tours and other related events.

USGBC-LA supporters include: BuroHappold, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, Edison International and Southern California Gas Company. AEG (Anschutz Entertainment Group) has provided support, as have many significant private firms such as Arup, Kilroy Realty, ZGF Architects, JMB Realty, PFM Group, Howard Building Corporation, Egan Simon, Bernards, Integral Group and Gensler.

The 5th Annual Sustainable Innovation Awards list:

Project of the Year	*Pico Branch Library*
Green Apple Day Project of the Year	*City Language Immersion Charter*
Green Apple Day Partner of the Year	*LINC Cares After School Program*
Energy & Atmosphere Merit	*Pomona College Millikan Laboratory & Andrew Science Hall*
Energy & Atmosphere Merit	*Pierce College Library Learning Crossroads*
Materials & Resources Merit	*Los Angeles Convention Center*
Indoor Environmental Quality Merit	*BuroHappold Engineering Office*
Innovation in Design Merit	*City of Santa Monica Parking Structure 6*
Innovation in Design Merit	*Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Medical Center B209*
Health & Wellness Merit	*MLK Ancillary Building*
Water Efficiency Honor	*Pico Branch Library*
Energy & Atmosphere Honor	*Arbor Green*
Innovation in Design Honor	*Pico Branch Library*

PROJECT TEAMS:

Pico Branch Library
City of Santa Monica, Koning Eizenberg Architecture, R.C. Construction Services Inc., Brightworks Sustainability, KPFF Consulting Engineers, Glumac, Thornton Thomasetti, Spurlock Poirier Landscape, Lighting Design Alliance, Veneklasen & Associates, Eric Staudenmaier Photography, Newsom Design.

MLK Ancillary Building
Los Angeles County – Department of Public Works, RBB Architects, Inc., Hensel Phelps Construction Co., John A. Martin & Associates, TK1SC Engineering, R.E., Wall & Associates

City Language Immersion Charter
Raul Alarcon (CLIC Principal), Kendall, hailey, Sarah Brower, Michele Adams, Andrea Dunlop, Gayle Brown Mayes, Marielle Farnan, Greg Girard, Heidi Creighton, Andrew Fox, Celia Almanzan-Fox, Annie Davis Weingard, Heather Muller, Maya Hagege, Cari Lutz, Heather Grierson, Katie Lewis Underwood, Seth Hoffman

LINC Cares After School Program
Katrina Johnson, Kellie Phillips, Clare Ofield, Jorge Ventura, Diana Mora, Gurdev Biring, Carolyn Rodriguez, Karina Novoa, Monica Lopez, Geraldo Garcia.

Pomona College Millikan Laboratory & Andrew Science Hall
Integral Group, EHDD Architecture, Searock Stafford CM, Inc.

Pierce College Library Learning Crossroads
HMC Architects, Bernards, Glumac, Paul Murdoch Architects, Los Angeles Community College District

Los Angeles Convention Center
AEG Facilities/Los Angeles Convention Center LLC, Glumac, Leading Edge Consulting Services

BuroHappold Engineering Office
BuroHappold Engineering, Shangri-LA Construction, Reback Realty Services, Gaia Development

City of Santa Monica Parking Structure 6
Morley Builders Inc., Studio Jantzen, Culp & Tanner, International Parking Design, Gaia Development

Dept. of Veterans Affairs, West Los Angeles Medical Center B209
LEO A DALY, Department of Veterans Affairs, Westport Construction Inc., Chattel Inc., Mia Lehrer + Associates, Jensen Design & Survey, Nabih Youssef Associates, S & K Engineers, Green Dinosaur, Inc.

Arbor Green
Affirmed Housing, Withee Malcolm Architects, Wermers Multifamily, Fuscoe Engineering, Darsono Design, Partner Energy

###

About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles
USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission promotes sustainability in LA County's built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. (www.usgbc-la.org)