



For Immediate Release

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11th Annual Sustainable Innovation Awards to be Announced at U.S. Green Building Council-L.A. Chapter Green Gala Tonight, with Two Projects of the Year

Recognized Community Leaders include Fifth Wall, LA County Parks & Recreation, and Theodore Payne Foundation

Los Angeles, CA (December 8, 2021) – Tonight at its 17th Annual Green Gala, the [Los Angeles Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council](#) (USGBC-LA) community will celebrate “A Night Less Prohibited”, in person at LA’s Union Station, as it presents the 11th Annual Sustainable Innovation Awards (SIA). The two **Projects of the Year** are being awarded to Billie Jean King Main Library in Long Beach, and the Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park in South Los Angeles. Eight more exceptional individual projects, plus a portfolio of projects, are being awarded. USGBC-LA is also proud to recognize Community Leaders, which this year include Fifth Wall, Hudson Pacific, LA County Parks and Recreation, Theodore Payne Foundation, three key member-volunteers, and the 3rd annual Kevin Devine Award, being presented to Neal Perkey of Transwestern Commercial Services.

“We are thrilled to physically come together with our community again after two long years to celebrate the people and projects who help create a more sustainable region for all here in Southern California,” shares USGBC-LA Executive Director Ben Stapleton. “During this time, the world has shifted to further recognize the power of place in addressing issues around equity, occupant health, and climate justice. Our two Projects of the Year exemplify that balance by providing healthy, and really necessary, spaces for entire communities to gather while being connected to and learning more about our natural environment.”

The SIAs affirm a project team’s commitment to a sustainable built environment; recognize exceptional achievement and innovation in built or un-built projects; and reflect the Chapter’s emphasis on energy and water savings, air quality, waste, good design, community engagement, education and equity. The SIAs are open to Southern California projects either certified from the previous year under any sustainability rating system or on track to achieve certification. The complete list is as follows (project teams at the end):

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION AWARDS:

Projects of the Year

- Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park, additional Honor in Equity + Environmental Justice
- Billie Jean King Main Library, additional Honor in Health + Well Being

Portfolio of the Year **new category*

Kilroy Realty Corporation Full Service Portfolio

Energy / Operational Carbon

Honor - San Bernardino Valley College Technical Education Building

Honor - Crafton Hills College Performing Arts Center

Merit - Coastline Equipment Long Beach HQ Building A

Equity + Environmental Justice

Honor - Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park

Merit - Flor 401 Lofts

Health + Well Being

Honor - Billie Jean King Main Library

Merit - Cal Poly Pomona Student Housing and Dining

Water

Honor - Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park

Merit - 801 Tower

Zero Waste + Circular Solutions

Honor - Santa Monica City Hall East

Merit - The Trust Building

[Complete design teams listed at the end. High resolution images of all projects available upon request. To view the SIA winners with images, [click here](#). To take an online tour of all the SIA winners, visit the [USGBC-LA EcoMapLA](#).]

The annual **Projects of the Year** embody not only premier green building practices, but reflect the complete spirit of the SIAs; both these projects also exemplify model public-private partnerships and public engagement processes. Highlights of this first phase of the 120-acre **Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park**, which is a high-performance model of sustainable park design for the 21st century, include:

- Conversion of a brownfield site and artificial lakes into a social, cultural and recreation activity hub for the underserved community of Willowbrook.
- A new 19,801 sf community events center (LEED Gold) to provide the community with a destination for conferences, weddings, or other large meetings in the region - there is no other civic center nor community facility in the area.

- A storm water recycling system that collects runoff from both the park and adjacent 375-acre urban watershed. The new water treatment transforms the park's manmade lake infrastructure into a viable Net Zero Water system.
- A passive methane mitigation and monitoring system for ongoing remediation of existing petroleum hydrocarbon contamination (ex-oil tank storage space).
- A lakeside loop trail with picnic areas, fitness equipment, and scenic viewpoints; a children's play area and outdoor classroom; a wedding area and native landscaping.

"ZCS is proud to be a part of this Project of the Year," says Glen Boldt, CEO/Partner, Senior Project Manager, ZC Sustainability. "It is satisfying to contribute to a model park that features our collective best in a revitalized public space that connects people to their neighboring green space while also giving back to the physical environment. It's a win-win for all involved."

The second Project of the Year is the **Billie Jean King Main Library**, with its vision as a pavilion within the new Lincoln Park, jointly offering a flexible space for the neighborhood to gather both now and with future adaptation. Highlights include:

- A sustainable, now LEED Platinum Certified, timber structure that provides a light-filled, open, warm and captivating interior environment for all with the glulam timber girders, joists, and plywood decking that comprise the superstructure, intentionally left exposed.
- The building envelope, composed of a unitized curtain wall system, is also designed to maximize daylight and views while mitigating glare and solar radiation.
- The design encourages the use of public transportation, bicycles, and walking. The LA Metro Blue rail line borders the property, offering connectivity and access. The building incorporates two main points of entry—from the street to the north and from the park to the south—linking the street to the park through the building's lobby.
- The building is surrounded by native California species that are waterwise and drought tolerant. Sustainability, resilience, and ease of maintenance were of utmost consideration.

"We are honored to accept the Project of the Year Award for the Billie Jean King Main Library," says Jed Zimmerman, Managing Principal at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. "The collaboration with the City of Long Beach made it possible to design a beautiful and dynamic structure of heavy timber, that is rooted in sustainability and now LEED Platinum certified."

Community Awards

USGBC-LA also honors the ongoing importance of its community by recognizing that spirit in eight people or groups. These awards were selected by the Chapter leadership:

Kevin Devine Award: **Neal Perkey**, *General Manager, Transwestern Commercial Services*

The Kevin Devine Award honors the life of Kevin and commemorates an individual who demonstrates the highest values that Kevin represented: true leadership in sustainable building operations, in the day to day, and setting an example for others.

Environmental Justice Award: *LA County Parks and Recreation*

Honors an organization or person who leads the way putting equity and environment at the center of focus for buildings in our region.

Corporate Sustainability Award: *Hudson Pacific Properties*

Recognizes outstanding leadership in leveraging influence to increase the prevalence of sustainable business practices across the Los Angeles region.

Community Impact Award: *Theodore Payne Foundation*

Recognizes outstanding leadership paving the way toward a more sustainable future.

Partner of the Year Award: *Fifth Wall*

The Partner of the Year award was created to honor outstanding leadership in working creatively with others to advance sustainable initiatives and develop 'green' talent across the Los Angeles region.

Emerging Leader Award(s):

Rebecca Ramsdale, Senior Project Manager, Verdical Group

Grant Waldron, Head of Sustainability Strategy, Gaia

Recognizing two member-volunteers who are still early in their careers, but demonstrating industry leadership in pushing us all forward to a more sustainable built environment.

Heart of the Chapter Award: *Heidi Creighton, Associate Principal, Buro Happold*

Honors those who have shown commitment, compassionate service and dedication to our chapter.

All the Awards were presented during the Green Gala, in front of a guest list of top industry professionals including real estate owners and developers, local government representatives, architects, engineers, contractors, sustainability professionals and other supporters. USGBC-LA works with anyone who is interested and engaged in collaborative sustainable initiatives.

In addition to having strict COVID protocols in place, Wynd Smart Air Purifiers will be present at the Gala venue to help ensure a cleaner event experience by removing 99.9% of germs, dust, dander, allergens, smoke & pollution. Wynd is currently part of the [Net Zero Accelerator](#) cohort of the USGBC-LA.

Adds Stapleton, "We are incredibly grateful and humbled by the support we have received from our sponsors and community partners this year that has helped grow our programming around green affordable housing, sustainability fundamentals education for youth, and increased wildfire resilience for our region and beyond. We are looking forward to even greater impact in 2022!"

The Green Gala is supported through the donations of many corporate partners: Champion Sponsors – Optimum Seismic and SoCalREN; Advocate Sponsors – Hathaway Dinwiddie, Howard Building Corp., Sharpe Interior Systems, Southern California Gas Company, and

ZGF; Leader Sponsors - Athens Services, CalPortland, Kilroy Realty Corp., McTigue Conscious Architecture, MIG, Pinnacle Audio & Video, San Bernardino Community College District, SOM Architects, and University of Southern California; and additional supporters – dubroworks PR+, Envoy, First Republic Bank, Get Current, Landmark Electric, Leading Edge, and Muir-Chase Plumbing.

Significant annual support for USGBC-LA comes from Allsteel, ADEC, Arup, Beneficial State Bank, Bloom Energy, Boston Properties, CalPortland, ChargePoint, Clean Power Alliance, FormLA Landscaping, GAIA, Giroux Glass, Green Advantage, Hathaway Dinwiddie, HDR, Howard Building Corporation, Hudson Pacific Properties, Hunter Industries, ICF/SoCalREN, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI), IQHQ, Kilroy Realty Corp., JLL, LADWP, Momentum, Optimum Seismic, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, SunPower, SustainAble Technologies, Tishman Speyer, USGBC, Verdical Group and The Wonderful Company.

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About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

Founded in 2002, USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission is to accelerate all aspects of sustainability in the built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. *Learn, Share and Lead Green.* (www.usgbc-la.org)

The 11th Annual SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION AWARDS – Project Teams:

Billie Jean King Main Library - **PROJECT OF THE YEAR**

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park - **PROJECT OF THE YEAR**

ZC Sustainability, MIG, and Paul Murdoch Architects

Coastline Equipment Long Beach HQ Building

A Sustainable Production (ASAP, Bragg Companies, Santa Cruz Design Studios)

San Bernardino Valley College Technical Education Building

HMC Architects and San Bernardino Valley College

Crafton Hills College Performing Arts Center

DLR Group

801 Tower

Transwestern Commercial Services

The Trust Building

Gaia, Rising Realty Partner, ARG, Gensler, and Morley Builders

Santa Monica City Hall East

Frederick Fisher & Partners, Hathaway Dinwiddie, KPFF Consulting Engineers, AHBE Landscape Architects, John A. Martin Associates, Buro Happold, Veneklasen Associates, CWE, Historic Resource Group, and Jensen Hughes

Cal Poly Pomona Student Housing and Dining

HMC Architects, Cal Poly Pomona, Sundt Construction, Ehrlich Yanai Rhe Chaney Architects, Spurlock

401 Lofts

VCA Green, Skid Row Housing Trust, and Koning Eizenberg

Kilroy Realty Corporation Full Service Portfolio

A Sustainable Production (ASAP) and Kilroy Realty Corporation

PROJECTS OF THE YEAR – MAIN IMAGES, contact Julie for Hi Res versions:



Community members of all ages gather to enjoy their reimagined park. Image courtesy of AHBE/MIG



Billie Jean King Main Library. Photographer: © Benny Chan | Fotoworks