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2018 Affordable Housing Design Award given to RS EDEN's Emanuel Housing designed by Cermak Rhoades Architects

MINNEAPOLIS, APRIL 11, 2018 – AIA Minnesota and The McKnight Foundation proudly announce that RS EDEN's **Emanuel Housing** is the winner of the **2018 Affordable Housing Design Award**. Located in near U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, the facility offers permanent affordable housing in a vibrant neighborhood, with health care and support services on site. The ideal location, nestled in a mixed-use neighborhood with excellent transit access, provides a population coming out of homelessness with a new opportunity to connect to the broader community.

Recognized for the award is RS EDEN; Cermak Rhoades Architects; Frerichs Construction; Pierce Pini + Associates; Spencer Jones Landscape Architect; Mattson Macdonald Young; and Emanuelson-Podas Inc.

Nathan Johnson, AIA, NOMA, AIA Minnesota president said, "We are pleased to have this opportunity to partner with The McKnight Foundation on this outstanding award to recognize those who are creating innovative, high-quality affordable housing design projects in Minnesota. This award is the embodiment of AIA Minnesota's mission to encourage excellence in affordable housing design."

All of the award submissions were reviewed, and the recipient project selected, by an esteemed panel of nationally-recognized affordable housing experts, including: **Barbara Flammang, AIA**, founding partner, KFA, Santa Monica, CA; **Catherine Malmberg Dannenbring**, founder, Malmberg Projects, St. Paul, MN; and **Marc Norman**, Associate Professor of Practice in Urban and Regional Planning, Taubman School of Architecture and Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.



The jury was struck by how the building combined both historic and new structures, with the new structure blending into the old without consuming it. They also noted the articulating façade and selective use of color, and the crisp design elements throughout.

Jurors also commented on how the mission of this project was incredibly well-served by the design. Its incorporation of health care and other support services, and its location within a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood will help residents continue to make positive change in their lives and demonstrate that people coming out of homelessness can make great neighbors. The building site, located near the Vikings stadium, is transit-oriented and provides access to a full array of neighborhood amenities.

Jurors were instructed to evaluate award submissions using the following criteria:

- **Responsiveness.** How creatively and successfully has the project responded to the needs of the client and the population served? How responsive is the project to demographic shifts and regional housing needs for affordable housing?
- **Community connection.** Was the project developed through a strong, collaborative project team? Did it show participation from the larger public, including neighbors, future users of the building, or citizens at large?
- **Long-term asset.** Did the project provide a long-term asset to the client, occupants, and the community? How did design contribute to the project's long-term financial and social viability? Did design choices support community interaction and enhance community networks?
- **Excellent design quality.** Did the project demonstrate exceptional design quality - responsive to physical and social contexts as well as to any constraints imposed by funding and regulatory agencies?

Award recipients will be featured throughout the year and receive their award at the annual 2018 AIA Minnesota Awards Dinner on December 7. The Emanuel Housing project will be included in an AIA Minnesota's Housing Advocacy Committee 2019 Search for Shelter event. Project boards will be displayed at the AIA Minnesota's 2018 Convention in November. A feature article with photographs will be written, to include award juror responses, for an issue of AIA Minnesota's magazine *Architecture MN*.

To learn more about the award program at <http://www.aia-mn.org/get-involved/aia-minnesota-awards/affordable-housing-design-award/>

See all the past Affordable Housing Design Award recipient videos at <http://www.aia-mn.org/features/podcasts-videos/>

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The McKnight Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, collaboration, and encouragement of strategic policy reform. Founded in 1953 and independently endowed by William and Maude McKnight, the foundation had assets of approximately \$2.3 billion and granted about \$91 million in 2017. Learn more at mcknight.org.