

Museum Directors Honored for Exemplary New Building Projects

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Photographs available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b28xczxwkldx3sm/vL3lnjHOfN>

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The Museum of History & Industry,
Seattle, WA



Center for Sustainable Landscapes,
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical
Gardens, Pittsburgh, PA

The Building Museums Symposium selected two museum directors to receive the 2014 Building Museums “Buidly” Award in recognition of their exemplary accomplishments in leading their institutions through the challenging process of creating new museum space.

On Monday, March 18, 2014 Leonard Garfield, executive director of the Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, Washington and Richard V. Piacentini, executive director of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received the awards and the praise of their museum peers, in a ceremony at the Tenth Annual Building Museums Symposium, held in Miami, Florida. The award presentations took place at the new Perez Art Museum Miami. The award recognizes museum directors whose completed museums demonstrate high achievement in the principles espoused in the Building Museums Symposium; careful, creative planning and diligent implementation of construction projects lead to institutional transformation and sustainability.

The Museum of History and Industry in Seattle converted an historic Naval Armory building into museum space, while retaining the architectural integrity of the landmark building. Integral to the success of the project was the creation of a five-year strategic plan, which guided its relocation process, and the engagement of both staff and visitors in the determining what features and amenities should be included in the new facility. Furthermore, the museum had the foresight to engage the builder early in the process, providing the project team with insights and market-based cost estimates that are often missing when builders are selected after a project design is finished. Thinking outside their own walls, the Museum also coordinated their efforts with nearby organizations to contribute to a renewal of the whole waterfront location. The result of their diligence is a bright, new museum with a 300% increase in visitors. Careful inclusion of sustainable design features allowed the building to achieve the highest level

of certification by the U.S. Green Building Counsel's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program – LEED Platinum.

The Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL) at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is the final phase of an expansion and renewal effort that has grown more complex with each phase. The Phipps Tropical Forest Conservatory won a Buildy Award in 2012 in recognition of its groundbreaking advancements in conservatory design. With the success of that project, Phipps set even higher goals for the CSL. For this building, Phipps used a new form of team organization called Facilitated Integrative Design, in which all members of the design, construction and ownership team worked together, from day one, to design a super high-performance green building. One of the primary goals for the CSL was to minimize the building's negative impact on the environment by designing a structure that creates all its own needed energy and treats all its waste water right on site. Such buildings are known as net zero buildings and are certified by the International Living Future Institute after a full year of energy and water metering data is submitted to show actual usage. The project also achieved certification from the Sustainable Sites Initiative at the four-star level and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum level.

Both of these projects demonstrate successful developments in the new attitudes that are beginning to guide the process of institutional growth and building design in the 21st Century: respectful and appropriate preservation of historic buildings, careful pre-planning to model business growth, engagement with user groups and the surrounding community, consideration of building impacts beyond the site boundaries, conservation and on-site generation of electricity and minimization of fossil fuel use, and careful management and treatment of both storm water and sanitary water on-site. They are fine examples, not just for museum building, as recognized with the Buildy Awards, but for all types building design and construction.

About the Building Museums® Symposium:

Building Museums® is an international symposium presented annually by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM) and open to all interested in the design and planning of museums. The 10th Annual Symposium will be held in Miami, Florida, March 16-18, 2014 with sessions at the Perez Art Museum, the Wolfsonian – FIU, and HistoryMiami.

This symposium is for museum leaders and staff, architects, planners, project managers, technical experts, and all those who plan or implement new construction, renovation, or expansion projects for museums. The goals of the program are to:

- Better understand the process of planning, implementing, and surviving new construction, renovation, or expansion projects
- Examine case studies, current trends, topical issues, and specific projects related to building projects across a broad range of museum sizes, budgets, scope, diversity of disciplines, and collecting vs. non-collections-holding institutions

- Actively discuss museum building projects with other museum professionals, architects, planners, project managers, and technical experts to better inform the process of building

Access resources for museum leaders and staff, architectural firms, consultants, and students through the Building Museums Resource Guide.

Building Museums 2014: <http://www.midatlanticmuseums.org/building-museums.html>