

Building Sustainable Neighborhoods

THE 2007 RUDY BRUNER AWARD FOR URBAN EXCELLENCE



BRUNER FOUNDATION, INC.

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Preface



2007 Selection Committee and staff salute 2007 Rudy Bruner Award winners.

This is the first round of the Rudy Bruner Award in which I have not been able to visit the finalists. Normally it is my privilege to spend three days at each site, photographing and asking questions the Selection Committee has posed. For personal reasons I had to sit this round out, and so – like you – must depend on this report to understand the reality of each place.

These 2007 winners engage our most challenging urban issues: how to implement sustainable design and environmental awareness; how to attract people back to our oft-challenged downtowns; how to reinforce our urban infrastructure; and how to stimulate investment in the places we all know and love the best, our neighborhoods.

At the new addition to the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, a local philanthropic community steps up to the plate. High Point is the vision of the Seattle Housing Authority, a clear-sighted public agency. At Columbus Circle and at the Crossroads public and private agencies are working together. At Columbus Circle, they are creating new public open space at one of New York City's busiest intersections; at the Crossroads they are creating complex new layers of urban infrastructure for the city of Milwaukee. Visionary citizens take responsibility for their own places at the LA Design Center and Artists for Humanity. In the public, philanthropic and private sectors, collaborators redefine what is possible. I am reminded once again

that partnership and creative thinking can often solve problems that seem insurmountable.

I have been a fly on the wall of the Selection Committee for 20 years and have never learned to predict who will be a finalist. I salute the 2007 Selection Committee for their thoughtful, imaginative, and unexpected choices. It is with great pride that we at the Rudy Bruner Award present the 2007 RBA winners to you. We have enjoyed learning about them and hope you will too. We hope that you find ideas in each of them that you can use in your own community.

Simeon Bruner