



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2011

Contact: Dawn Hutchison-Weiss,
414-273-1815 x25, dweiss@lisc.org

15 FINALISTS CHOSEN TO COMPETE FOR MILWAUKEE AWARDS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION (MANDI)

13th Annual Awards Highlight Innovative Projects in Central City

Milwaukee (December 8, 2011) — Today, LISC Milwaukee announced 15 finalists for the Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI). Sponsored by U.S. Bank, in partnership with LISC Milwaukee, MANDIs recognize individuals, organizations, and corporations who are strengthening Milwaukee's central city neighborhoods.

"While many people are working hard to improve Milwaukee's neighborhoods, their stories are often untold. The MANDIs recognize the inspiring, innovative, and tenacious work of people who are improving the quality of life in our central city," says Leo Ries, LISC Milwaukee Executive Director.

Finalists and winners are selected by an independent, cross-sector volunteer committee. The committee reviews nominations and selects three finalists in each of five categories. Winners will be announced at a gala event Wednesday, March 28th, 5pm, at the Pfister Hotel.

Finalists Include:

Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award: the creation or use of public space that contributes significantly to the overall well-being of the community

- Cluster II Play and Grow Lot: *a vacant lot transformed into neighborhood gardens and playspace*
- Beerline Recreational Trail: *abandoned railway corridor brought to life with running path, landscaping and murals*
- Valley Passage: *vibrant passageway links south side to emerging Menomonee Valley*

Northern Trust Navigator Award: an outstanding collaborative effort that brings together diverse voices and resources to improve the community

- Radio Milwaukee Neighborhood Project: *project features stories of people, places, and organizations that make Milwaukee unique*
- 53rd Street Community Garden: *partnership brings community gardens to Milwaukee Public Schools*
- Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance: *collaboration strengthens workforce development in Milwaukee*

PNC Trail Blazer Award: an innovative approach to a community problem(s)

- Most Improved Porch Contest: *incentives help homeowners improve curb appeal*
- Veterans Manor Apartments: *unique model provides wrap around support to veterans*

- ArtWorks for Milwaukee: *at- risk youth learn job skills through arts internships*

State Farm Insurance Building Blocks Award: a real estate project that contributes significantly to the enhancement of the community

- Historic Kilbourn Bank State Building Redevelopment Project: *blighted historic building becomes multi-generational learning center*
- Franklin Square Apartments and Townhomes: *state-of-the art apartments offer affordable homes and artistic community space*
- Villard Square Grandfamily Milwaukee: *project revives Villard Library and provides homes to grandparents living with young children*

BMO Harris Bank Cornerstone Award: a long-standing commitment demonstrates persistence and effectiveness over time

- Agape Community Center: *center is hub of integrated services and programs for residents of Thurston Woods*
- Select Milwaukee: *programs help 2,000 families own their own homes*
- Wisconsin Community Services: *over 100 years, social services to disenfranchised offer health and hope*

###

LISC Milwaukee transforms distressed urban neighborhoods into healthy communities of choice and opportunity—great places to work, do business and raise children. LISC mobilizes corporate, government and philanthropic resources on behalf of local neighborhoods, providing loans, grants and equity investments, policy support, and technical and management assistance to achieve their goals.