



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **2024 AIA|LA Board of Directors Awards Announced by American Institute of Architects Los Angeles**

*The suite of awards recognizes individuals and organizations in the LA region whose work enhances equity, access, and inclusivity.*

**Thursday, July 18, 2024 (Los Angeles, CA)** – The American Institute of Architects Los Angeles (AIA|LA) has announced the recipients of its annual **2024 Board of Directors Awards**.

The Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed by AIA|LA has been awarded to Debra Gerod, FAIA.

*“Setting the benchmark in executive architecture, Debra Gerod’s distinguished portfolio includes transformative projects with iconic institutions such as LA Metro, LA River, Pershing Square, Wilshire Blvd Temple, LAX, and Central Library, each leaving a lasting imprint on Los Angeles’ community fabric. Beyond her architectural achievements, Debra fosters community within the profession through her influential roles at AIA CA, AIA LA, ACE, and her commitment to mentorship, bridging students with the architectural realm. Her dedication truly embodies the essence of a Gold Medal honoree.”* Says Annette Wu, AIA, 2024 AIA|LA’s President.

Award recipients will be formally celebrated during the 2024 AIA|LA Design Awards Ceremony—which also honors winners of the juried AIA|LA Design Awards and Next LA Awards—to be held at AIA|LA’s brand new West Adams Center for Communities, on October 30.

## The 2024 AIA|LA Board of Directors Honorees:

- **Gold Medal Award: Debra Gerod, FAIA, LEED AP – Partner, Gruen Associates**
- **Emerging Practice Award: Sharif, Lynch: Architecture**

As UCLA professors, Sharif and Lynch blend architectural practice with academic theory, addressing pressing urban issues like housing and density in LA. Their innovative projects, grounded in thorough research and practical application, have garnered multiple AIA Awards and are making a significant impact on the city.
- **25-Year Award: The Getty Center**

The Getty Center is an iconic mountaintop destination that has transformed into a beloved cultural oasis in LA. Initially, there was concern about it being too detached from the city, but it proved to be a free, inclusive space that brings people together. With its beautiful gardens, engaging architecture by Richard Meier, and landscape architectural triumphs from Robert Irwin, it offers a unique experience that transcends traditional art appreciation.
- **Citizen Architect Award: Brian Lane, FAIA, LEED AP, Principal KoningEizenberg**

As a driving force behind AIA|LA's Political Outreach committee, Brian's work on affordable housing is unparalleled. His deep understanding of housing challenges, advocacy at both city and state levels, and tireless dedication make him a standout figure in the field.
- **The Merry Norris Design Advocate / Developer Award: Linear City Development**

We celebrate Linear City Development for their adaptive reuse of historic properties in downtown LA, such as the Nabisco building and Toy Factory Lofts. Their exquisite work has played a pivotal role in the creation and growth of the Arts District, establishing a lasting legacy in urban development.
- **The Merry Norris Design Advocate / Builder Award: Hensel Phelps**

Hensel Phelps is a key partner in design-build projects and excels in strategic planning and innovation. They've demonstrated exceptional flexibility and logistical acumen, as seen in their work on Venice High, among many others. Their ability to think outside the box and provide value through creative solutions makes them a standout partner in the construction industry.

- **Community Contribution Award: Los Angeles Unified School District**

This award recognizes L.A.U.S.D.'s dedication to promoting the values of the architecture profession, which has resulted in the betterment of the architectural community in the Los Angeles region.

As one of the largest property owners in Los Angeles, the District has the ability to make a huge impact on the built environment – and the District is doing so by promoting the value of architectural design to elevate the experience of communities, faculty, staff and students through great projects. From the large comprehensive modernizations to projects removing asphalt and greening campuses, the L.A.U.S.D. is leading the way and spreading the work amongst the architectural community by awarding a wide-range of firms from large to small. Programs connecting architectural professionals with students interested in architecture and architecture & engineering CTE teachers for professional development, that the District is working hand-in-hand with AIA LA and ACLA on, promote the value of the profession.

- **Robert Kennard, FAIA Award for Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity: Anderson Barker, Inc.**

Anderson Barker's dedication to creating multigenerational wealth, affordable housing, and opportunities for homeownership in challenging areas is truly admirable. Their impactful work and ongoing efforts to uplift the community reflect the legacy and immeasurable contribution of Anderson Barker. This recognition honors their profound influence on the chapter and the broader community.

- **Educator of the Year Award: Amy Murphy, PhD, Associate Professor, USC School of Architecture**

With a long tenure at USC, Amy has taught a wide range of courses and served as Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, setting high standards for DEI. Her dedication to students, innovative teaching methods, and recent efforts in securing a Mellon Foundation Grant for the Paul Williams Archive/Exhibit exemplify her commitment and excellence.

- **Honorary AIA|LA: Ivy M. Cook, FLL Consulting**

As a long-time connector and business development strategist in the architecture community, Ivy has been a vital member of the AIA|LA Design Awards Committee, raising significant funds and supporting designers and engineers. Her contributions over the past 20+ years have made her a strong thread in the fabric of the community, and this recognition celebrates her unwavering dedication.

- **Honorary AIA|LA: Dr. Rueben Smith, D.C.Sc., Vice Chancellor & Chief Facilities Executive, Facilities Planning & Development, Los Angeles Community College District**

As Vice Chancellor and Chief Facilities Director of LACCD, Dr. Smith has demonstrated exceptional leadership in building a sustainable future through decarbonization, electrification, and conservation initiatives. His advocacy for students, particularly in addressing housing insecurity, and his commitment to community partnership, set a shining example for other districts nationwide.

- **Building Team Award: The Resnick Sustainability Center at CalTech**

The Resnick Sustainability Center at CalTech stands out as one of the most sustainable projects in Los Angeles, featuring a three-story undulating glass façade supported by a mass-timber frame. The project’s complexity required essential engineering prowess, focusing on low-VOC materials, rapid renewability, and low-embodied carbon. The innovative use of recycled water from the cooling system exemplifies the center's commitment to sustainability.

The Building Team:

Client/Owner – Caltech

Architect – Yazdani Studio of Cannon Design

Builder – Hensel Phelps

MEP/Tech Engineering – AEI

Structural Engineering – Saiful Bouquet

Civil Engineering – KPFF

Landscape Architecture – MIG

Acoustics – Veneklasen

Life Safety & Smoke Control – Woden Fire

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