



Preservation Award Recognizes Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative

AIA Illinois honors design work of Landon Bone Baker Architects to create a community hub that brings cultural programming to Chicago's south side, with spaces for artists-in-residence in public housing.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield – Chicago's Dorchester Art and Housing Collaborative will be presented with the 2017 Crombie Taylor Honor Award for Preservation by the American Institute of Architects Illinois. The presentation is planned for October 27, at 1:00 PM, at the Dorchester Arts Center, 1456 E. 70th St, Chicago, 60637.

The Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative (DA+HC) is a cornerstone project of Rebuild Foundation's broader vision to reactivate underutilized and abandoned buildings in Chicago's Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood as part of an ambitious movement of community restoration, preservation, and rejuvenation. The project features a rehabilitated block of 32 of the original 36 two- and three-bedroom former Chicago Housing Authority townhouse units that now provide mixed-income housing. Four of the center units were strategically removed to create the centerpiece of the development—an Arts Center of 2200 square feet, complete with a dance studio, work and tech shops, and public meeting space, offering arts creation, education, performance, and display space for people of all ages.

The project was led by Catherine Baker, AIA, Principal, Landon Bone Baker Architects, and embodies a successful collaboration between private, public, and non-profit sectors committed to showcasing the value of existing buildings as catalysts for social change through the integration of art, architecture, and community involvement.

The AIA Illinois award jury was impressed by the designed accessibility and sustainability efforts including conversion of four units into flat configurations, a focus on energy efficient components and efforts to create space that fosters dialogue and collaboration between artists and community members.

CONTACT

Catherine O'Connor, Communications
Director

217 652-6188

coconnor@aiaill.org

[@aiaillinois](https://twitter.com/aiaillinois)

[The American Institute of Architects](http://www.aiaill.org)

AIA Illinois

201 East Adams St. Suite 1A

Springfield, IL 62701

217 522-2309

www.aiaill.org

It was noted by the AIA jury panel that the project is a great example of how selective urban intervention can work to meet all of the American Institute of Architects Principles of Livable Communities.

Dorchester Art and Housing Collaborative is the first in the nation to provide artist residences in public housing, with a committee of neighbors and Rebuild Foundation staff, who review artist portfolios and are active in the selection of the artists-in-residence. While living on site, the artists volunteer their time to develop programming and further catalyze neighborhood revitalization through artistic practice, individual empowerment, and community engagement.

Participants in the project include: Catherine Baker, AIA Principal, Landon Bone Baker Architects; Richard Sciortino, Brinshore Development; Peter Levavi, Brinshore Development, LLC; Theaster Gates, Rebuild Foundation; Brad McCauley, ASLA, Site Design Group; Vic Carsello, S.E., Carsello Engineering; Doug Brewer, P.E., RTM Engineering Consultants; Ray Walston, PE, Prism Engineering; Corbett Lunsford, Green Dream Group; Michael Cornell, Brinshore Construction Management LLC

The American Institute of Architects

The Award is named for Charles Crombie Taylor, who was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a professor credited with the design for the Chicago Hull House Association social center, and whose legacy furthered the promotion of historic preservation through movies, articles and a volume titled, Crombie Taylor: Modern Architecture, Building Restoration and the Re-Discovery of Louis Sullivan.

####

AIA Illinois is the state component of the American Institute of Architects, representing 4,000 architects and architectural interns on issues of statewide importance to the public and the profession.

For more information about AIA Illinois, visit www.aiaill.org.

201 East Adams Street, Suite #1A | Springfield, IL 62701-1323