A CELEBRATION OF
Vision & Community Spirit

December 7, 2009
The Fairfax at Embassy Row
Washington, D.C.
Partners for Livable Communities would like to thank the following for their support of the Celebration of Vision & Community Spirit Program and Dinner:

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William R. Alsup, III
6:00 p.m. **RECEPTION** *Grand Ballroom Foyer*

7:00 p.m. **WELCOME** *Grand Ballroom*

HOST

RICHARD C.D. FLEMING
Chairman
Partners for Livable Communities
President & CEO
St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

WILLIAM K. REILLY
Trustee
Partners for Livable Communities
Senior Advisor
TPG Capital, LP
Former Administrator of the U.S. EPA

7:15 p.m. **KEYNOTE**

THE HONORABLE TOM PERRIELLO
U.S. Congressman
5th District of Virginia

7:35 p.m. **DINNER**

8:30 p.m. **AWARDS PROGRAM**

Toasts & Tributes
INVESTORS IN AMERICA AWARD

PAUL C. BROPHY and MARY K. REILLY, for their contributions to social equity and upward mobility through innovative housing development and strategic planning.

ENTREPRENEURIAL AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

LAURIE BECKELMAN, for her extensive career in strengthening the arts, community development, and historical and cultural preservation in New York City and around the world.

RICHARD H. BRADLEY and ELLEN M. MCCARTHY, for their combined role in advancing a ‘renaissance’ in downtown Washington, D.C. through progressive urban planning techniques.

LEONARD A. ZAX, for his devotion and contributions to community vitality and quality of life through the creation of the Great Falls National Historical Park.
FOUNDERS AWARD FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

ROBERT A. PECK, for his continuing commitment to excellence in design and built environments through his influential career at both federal and regional levels.

ENTREPRENEURIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY AWARD

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, for the community’s entrepreneurial spirit in advancing major new livability agendas to enhance the quality of life and competitiveness of the region.

BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD

AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE at Harvard and MIT, for the Program’s promotion, creation, and preservation of Islamic culture through architecture.

**FOUNDERS AWARD FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP**

The Founders Award for Civic Leadership acknowledges an individual of national stature for his or her contributions in the stewardship of our nation’s communities. The men and women who receive this award are recognized as individuals whose lives reflect a unique leadership that has a significant impact on the quality of life for people across America.

**INVESTORS IN AMERICA AWARD**

The Investors in America Award acknowledges groups and individuals who use enterprise, vision, and creative public/private partnerships to bring new civic assets to our nation’s cities. Their exemplary efforts have resulted in the creation of projects, jobs and entire industries that offer our communities long-term assets and a renewed sense of pride.

**ENTREPRENEURIAL AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award acknowledges the civic capacity building, commitment, vision and entrepreneurial spirit of an individual. Those honored with this award are real “doers” that accomplish change for the betterment of our communities.

**ENTREPRENEURIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY AWARD**

The Entrepreneurial American Community Award acknowledges the civic capacity building, commitment, vision and entrepreneurial spirit of a community. Those communities honored with this award are true innovators and have found success in providing unique solutions to local problems.

**BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD**

The Bridge Builders Award honors civic leaders who have formed partnerships across racial, social, economic and geographic barriers for the betterment of their communities. Through unique partnerships, these honored individuals and organizations pioneer programs and projects that stand as great examples to the power and possibility fostered when people put aside differences and join together for a common goal.
Congressman Tom Perriello was sworn into office on January 6, 2009 and represents the 5th District of Virginia.

Born and raised in the 5th district, Congressman Perriello previously served as a national security consultant, working in conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Darfur, Kosovo, and Liberia. His work with child soldiers, amputees, and local pro-democracy groups in Sierra Leone played a significant role in the peace and reconciliation process that ended the blood diamonds war in that country.

He has also founded a number of nonprofit organizations aimed at bringing together faith communities to fight for children’s health care, supporting a higher minimum wage, environmental stewardship, and responsible solutions in Iraq. Mr. Perriello was educated in Albemarle County public schools, St. Anne’s-Belfield, and has his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University.


Mr. Reilly has served on Partners for Livable Communities Board since 1979.
Equitable, quality housing is a basic building block of livable communities and a springboard to social and economic advancement. Unfortunately, despite tremendous federal and private efforts, the provision of affordable housing in the United States has proved to be an unending crusade. Paul Brophy and Mary Reilly are no strangers to this fight. With over thirty years each of experience in the fields of housing and community development, this powerful husband and wife team has made extraordinary contributions to the quality of life in communities across America.

Beginning her career in Pittsburgh, Reilly held various positions in the city’s Department of Housing, beginning as a housing planner specialist, division supervisor, and ultimately department director. During her five years with the Department of Housing, Reilly helped to create the department responsible for all housing development in the City, and developed and implemented effective housing finance and rehabilitation programs. Reilly’s career also includes a combined total of 10 years as an investment banker. As a senior vice president for Municipal Mortgage and Equity, LLC, a public company specializing in financing and investing in rental housing, Reilly created and launched an innovative lending and investment program, contributing much-needed capital to finance affordable housing.

Spanning nearly 20 years, Brophy’s career in Pittsburgh includes time served as the executive director of ACTION-Housing Inc., a non-profit housing development and neighborhood improvement organization, the first director of the city’s Department of Housing, and the executive director of the city’s Urban Redevelopment Authority, which is responsible for downtown and neighborhood improvement. Using the skills and experience gained during his time in Pittsburgh, Brophy assumed the role of president and later vice chair and co-CEO of the Enterprise Foundation. While in these positions, Brophy was responsible for the transformation of hundreds of communities, working with local groups and municipal governments around the nation to improve neighborhoods and develop thousands of units of housing for low- and moderate-income families.

Brophy and Reilly combined their expertise in 1993 with the founding of their consulting firm, Brophy and Reilly LLC. Through advising on issues such as neighborhood improvement strategies, strategic planning for community development organizations, innovative financing approaches and multi-family housing development by non-profits, Reilly and Brophy have contributed their valuable skills and drive to hundreds of organizations, including HUD, Enterprise, Bank of America, local governments, national and local foundations, Washington University in St. Louis, the Brookings Institution and other national and local groups involved in creative approaches to housing and neighborhood improvement. While the ongoing fight for adequate affordable housing continues, Paul Brophy and Mary Reilly have been effective and successful in leading the charge and making real gains.
Robert A. Peck

Good design in the built environment has long been regarded as a critical element of livability. This principal is especially true of government buildings, which are key anchor institutions in thousands of communities across the country. The way in which they fit into a neighborhood’s aesthetic context greatly affects the public’s interaction with the building, the use of adjacent public space, and the overall sense of livability in the surrounding neighborhood. Currently serving as commissioner of public buildings for the General Services Administration (GSA), Bob Peck is in a unique position to promote livability and while his career has included many diverse roles, his belief in the power of excellent design for improved quality of life has served as a steady beacon guiding all of his activities.

Prior to his time with the GSA, Peck served as chief of staff to U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, author of “Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture,” the cornerstone of the GSA’s Design Excellence Program. Peck has also upheld architectural and development standards as associate counsel to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, while working for the National Endowment for the Arts, and as vice president for public affairs at the American Institute of Architects.

Peck’s first association with GSA began in 1995 when he filled the same position as commissioner under the Clinton Administration. During his initial tenure with GSA, Peck instituted a number of innovative programs that raised the bar for federal building development, including the Urban Development/Good Neighbor Program and the Design Excellence Program. The former was created to meet federal real estate needs while supporting community development goals, such as constructing new facilities that fit into the local urban design context and managing properties to encourage public use and openness. The latter streamlined the process of hiring architects, established a peer review process for designers and engineers, and continues to stress creativity.

Before his most recent return to GSA as commissioner of public buildings under President Obama, Peck served as president of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the vice president of Jones Lang LaSalle. In his role with the Board of Trade, Peck expanded his focus from design and management to regional development, bringing fresh approaches to local transportation congestion and broadening the Board’s policy agenda to include health care and higher education. Altogether, whether his focus was federal or local, public or private, Peck has brought with him an uncompromising standard for quality of design that has contributed to the livability of communities throughout the nation and the way citizens interact with the government that represents them.
The fields of cultural organization development and preservation management require in-depth knowledge of issues spanning from the arts world to strategic planning to community development. As a leading expert in these fields, Laurie Beckelman has brought unparalleled passion and skills to ensuring cultural assets are an integral and effective part of the future of communities. She has led countless cultural and non-profit organizations through the fray of zoning ordinances, fundraising, marketing, strategic planning and construction to become sound pieces of New York City’s rich urban fabric.

A graduate of Boston University, Beckelman is also an alumnus of the Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. Following this prestigious program, Beckelman’s major contributions to preservation and development in New York began with her appointment as chair of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. After four years of working to preserve the City’s architectural and cultural heritage, Beckelman brought her interest in quality design and protection of vital buildings and spaces to LaSalle Partners, a firm specializing in real estate services and investment management. As vice president of the firm, Beckelman managed the redevelopment plan for the Grand Central Terminal and guided the Empire State Development Corporation through the redevelopment of 42nd Street.

In 1995, Beckelman further solidified her connection to the cultural landscape of New York by assuming the position of executive director for the Joseph Papp Public Theater, before returning her focus to preservation and development by applying her talents to the World Monuments Fund as vice president of the organization. Here, Beckelman used her passion and expertise in the field to protect artistic treasures all over the world. Following her tenure with the Fund, Beckelman assumed the role of deputy director for special projects for the Guggenheim Foundation, and served as director of the New Building Program for the Museum of Art & Design at Columbus Circle, overseeing the construction of a $70 million cultural facility. Most recently, Beckelman co-founded Beckelman+Capalino in 2005, a strategic advisory firm for cultural institutions and not-for-profit organizations, where she has contributed guidance and services to multi-million dollar projects and organizations such as the Children’s Museum of the Arts, Dia Center for the Arts, and the Museum of Chinese in America.

Laurie Beckelman has devoted herself to managing the development, strategic planning, fundraising, preservation, and community outreach of some of the most prominent cultural institutions in New York City and throughout the world. Her leadership has ensured the accessibility of arts, culture, history, and a high quality of life to all.
Downtown Washington, D.C. was not always the vibrant, bustling center it is today. With little commercial and cultural activity available in the evenings and few residences within 10-15 blocks of the area, office crowds would depart after the work day leaving vacant streets and empty storefronts. Such a scene is hard to imagine today while pushing through the crowds to get to a Wizards NBA game, catch a movie, or dine at one of the many nationally renowned restaurants that downtown has to offer. Though the efforts of many people contributed to such an incredible turnaround, the commitment of Rich Bradley and Ellen McCarthy was a vital force in the downtown “renaissance”. Over the last 25 years, this D.C. power couple has transformed the city’s urban core into an animated and livable public space.

Both Bradley and McCarthy boast an extensive history with the planning and development of downtown D.C. After serving several years as the first executive director of the D.C. Downtown Partnership, a public/private collaboration for the revitalization of downtown, McCarthy was hired as the deputy director of Development Review for Neighborhood Planning and Historic Preservation of the D.C. Office of Planning prior to assuming the position of director. Through these various roles, McCarthy spearheaded fierce zoning battles, pushing for ordinances that would allow a long-awaited “living downtown”. Despite opposition from powerful players including key economic development organizations, McCarthy was successful in requiring housing, arts and retail to be included in all further development downtown.

Bradley’s work in D.C. began with his role as president of the International Downtown Association. After many years of advocating for vital and livable urban centers throughout the world, Bradley applied his experience to the newly formed Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District. As the first executive director of one of the largest BIDs in the country, Bradley created a tax abatement program that helped launch the first set of investments in downtown housing in over 15 years. The BID also undertook the initial planning of the Downtown Circulator, created streetscape standards which have guided more than $35 million of new investment in public space, established a multi-purpose service center for the homeless, and became lead manager of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Washington D.C. is currently considered one of the strongest commercial office markets in the world and 95 percent of new jobs created in the city in the last decade were located downtown. Packed with restaurants, galleries, shops, theaters, and housing, downtown D.C. is now a thriving center of commerce, a feat accomplished with significant contributions from the combined skills and unyielding dedication of Rich Bradley and Ellen McCarthy.
Alexander Hamilton’s first bold step in transforming a rural agrarian society based in slavery into a modern industrial economy based in freedom relied on the power of the Great Falls in New Jersey, then the most forceful waterfall in America. Founded by our first Treasury Secretary in 1792 to harness the power of the Great Falls, the City of Paterson, New Jersey has experienced a rise and fall as a major industrial power, leaving the city one of the poorest in the nation—with one of the richest histories. To one Paterson native in particular, this history was worth celebrating, preserving and using as a critical tool in revitalizing a gritty city. Leading the charge with incredible dedication, unyielding enthusiasm and remarkable effectiveness, Leonard A. Zax managed to turn this faded industrial town into the home of America’s newest National Historical Park.

With degrees in law and city planning from Harvard University, Zax has worked for more than thirty years on community development projects across the country. After success in many cities in the U.S. and abroad, community leaders in Paterson asked him to come home. In 2008, after two years of pro bono work to make the Great Falls a part of the National Park System, Zax left the law firm of Latham & Watkins to spearhead the project and launched the Hamilton Partnership to build a diverse bi-partisan team that will help create a unique national park and maximize its benefits for the city and the nation.

Putting his talents to work, Zax built a compelling case for the creation of the park, arguing that it would not only highlight Paterson’s role in economic history, but also improve the quality of life and give the predominantly Latino, African American and Muslim American population of Paterson a deeper connection to the past, a better life today and inspiration for the future. The New York Times described one of Zax’s writings submitted to the Secretary of the Interior as a “38-page tour de force… putting together political and industrial history, art and literature, to argue for adding Paterson’s old industrial heart to the National Park System.” In the spring of 2009, President Obama signed into law the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Act.

Through his civic leadership and devotion to the Great Falls effort, Leonard A. Zax has provided the 160,000 residents of Paterson, New Jersey—a city that one federal agency ranked as the most distressed city in America—a great source of pride and a tremendous leap forward in the city’s return to economic vitality, hope and opportunity.
Arts and culture have always been a treasured resource in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, but have only recently been repositioned by local leadership as a centerpiece to the community’s economic and social agendas. Through the region’s Culture Builds initiative, citizens from all walks of life have joined together in confirmation that cultural strategies can have a significant and sustainable impact on education, cultural identity, community pride, livability, neighborhood development, and the social fabric of the community. Launched in 2007 as a partnership between the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, the City of Tuscaloosa, the City of Northport, Tuscaloosa County, the University of Alabama and the Alabama State Council of the Arts, The Culture Builds initiative included the creation of a long-term strategic plan for the future development of the region emphasizing economic growth, multicultural understanding, and enhanced public space.

Even in the midst of a challenging economy, the community has banded together to ensure significant aspects of the plan are realized, transforming Tuscaloosa into a “cultural destination” and spurring economic development. Projects currently underway include the construction of a state-of-the-art 7,500-seat amphitheatre on the Black Warrior River; construction of the Tuscaloosa River Market that will include an open-air farmers’ market; a new community gathering space for events and home of the Tuscaloosa Convention & Visitors Bureau; and construction of the final section of the River Walk along the Black Warrior River. Additionally, as part of a $100 million revitalization plan in Downtown Tuscaloosa, the new Federal Courthouse will include original 9’x13’ murals in the main rotunda by renowned artist Caleb O’Connor.

Next to the downtown, the Creative Campus Initiative at the University of Alabama is serving as a bridge between the campus and the community through both community programs on campus and programs that encourage students to become involved in communities outside of campus. Efforts are also underway among the public and private sectors to define Tuscaloosa’s image and brand; enhance cultural diversity through the new “Culture Fest” initiative that will bring arts and culture to all neighborhoods in the City; and increase the number of cultural opportunities for all ages and all citizens.

These creative initiatives are purposefully designed to build on a multi-faceted cultural scene already in place including the Westervelt–Warner Museum, housing one of the largest collections of American art in the country; the Paul Jones Collection, which includes 1,700 pieces of 20th century African-American art; the award-winning Kentuck Festival in Northport; and a myriad of other cultural treasures. With this growing number of diverse cultural assets, Tuscaloosa’s entrepreneurial spirit, complemented by a deep sense of tradition, is effectively leading the charge in building one of America’s most livable communities.
AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE at Harvard and MIT

Understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures is essential to peaceful dialogue not only between countries, but between diverse members of our own communities. The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) has found a unique and powerful route to build connections and share values between cultures that often feel at odds with one another.

When seeking to understand cultures different than their own, anthropologists and laymen alike look to art and architecture as expressions of traditions, beliefs, and ways of life. In this vein of thought, conversations began between his highness the Aga Khan and professors at both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the late 1970s. By 1979, the AKPIA was established to support the study of Islamic urbanism, architecture, and visual culture and is now a leading force in its field, consistently reaching beyond cultural and geographical barriers to emphasize the idea that art and architecture from the Muslim world is a vital piece of our common human heritage and a key to cultural understanding and exchange today.

The program strives to improve the teaching of Islamic architecture, to promote excellence in advanced research, and to enhance the understanding of the Islamic built environment in light of contemporary theoretical, historical, critical, and developmental issues. The Aga Khan carefully chose Harvard and MIT to host the curriculum, stating that “this program will not only utilize their immense intellectual resources for the benefit of scholars seeking to understand Islamic architecture, but also circulate this expertise among students, teachers, and universities in Muslim and Western countries.”

Hosted by these two prestigious institutions, AKPIA is unmatched in providing resources to students, enforcing standards of excellence for professors and students alike, and promoting cultural examination. The program is taught by a core of five talented faculty specializing in Islamic architecture and art with visiting professors from related fields of study. To further enrich cultural exchange between the Islamic and Western worlds, AKPIA also hosts events open to the public. Lectures, conferences, exhibits and concerts explore Islamic traditions and promote the visibility of Islamic cultural heritage.

The caliber of research and publications produced through AKPIA has led to a meaningful dialogue of Islamic contributions to the field of architecture. AKPIA alumni have gone on to influential roles as art curators, academics, government officials, and practicing architects all over the world. Through the incredible resources and standards of research and debate, the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture ensures the pluralistic traditions of the Islamic culture will continue to play an ever-increasingly important role in academics and the practice of architecture around the globe.
A little over twenty years ago, many community members from low-income areas of Washington, D.C. had few opportunities to develop talent or express themselves in a structured creative setting. Since 1987, however, underserved and at-risk youth have enjoyed a haven of inspiration in the Dance Institute of Washington (DIW). For the last two decades, the Dance Institute of Washington has used the vehicles of dance and community partnerships to introduce young D.C. residents to the principles of work ethic, tenacity, responsibility, and creative expression.

After 15 years as a soloist with the Dance Theater of Harlem, Fabian Barnes founded DIW to ensure the youth of Washington, D.C. received the same opportunity he had found in dance as a young man. Today, DIW offers an array of courses to community members. Some programs provide an introduction to basic movements with an equal focus on education and enjoyment while others prepare students for further study of dance in a university or professional setting. All courses help develop fine motor skills, promote social and emotional development, and advance creativity and problem solving skills. For families unable to afford class fees, DIW offers a number of scholarships, ensuring the accessibility of dance to low-income D.C. residents.

In order to extend the tremendously positive impact of DIW’s programs, the organization has continuously reached into the community to forge effective partnerships with local organizations. First Position, a partnership between DIW and the United Planning Organization Early Childhood Development Center, brings dance to preschool-aged children in low-income areas around the District. A collaboration with the WVSA School for Arts in Learning allows classes to be integrated into the academic curriculum during the school day. Further ventures with Ferebee Hope Elementary School and Holy Redeemer Catholic School provide after-school classes for grades K-8 that involve everything from ballet vocabulary and etiquette to performances in school festivals. The benefits of dance are not reserved solely for the young; DIW also brings weekly dance and fitness classes to Victory Heights, a senior housing complex. Classes help with cardiovascular and neuromuscular functions as well as improved balance, flexibility and strength.

After more than twenty years of service, DIW continues to have a remarkable impact on the quality of life in D.C. communities. In 2008 alone, 700 students from local schools benefitted from classes, outreach, and performances. Within the same year, 100 percent of students involved in the programs either moved on to the next grade or graduated from high school. The Dance Institute of Washington illustrates the power of arts and culture to provide unique, life-altering experiences that open the doors to new opportunities for the communities that need them most.
Past Recipients

ENTREPRENEURIAL AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

BARBARALEE DIAMONSTEIN-SPIELVOGEL, Chair of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center (2008)

AMANDA BURDEN, Director of the New York City Department of City Planning (2008)

DR. MARILYN PERRY, Former Chair of the World Monuments Fund (2008)

ROBB NANSEL and JASON KULBEL, Co-owners and Developers of Saddle Creek complex (2008)


JOHN MCKNIGHT and JODY KRETZMANN, Co-Directors of the Asset Based Community Development Institute at Northwestern University (2005)

JAN KREAMER, Former President of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (2005)

ALBERT SIMONE, President of Rochester Institute of Technology (2005)

DEBORAH SZEKELY, Former President of the Inter-America Foundation and Eureka Communities (2004)

JANET MARIE SMITH, for “Field of Dreams” at Camden Yards (1998)

SENATOR GEORGE VOINOVICh, Mayor of Cleveland and Governor of Ohio (1995)

MAYA LIN, Architect and Sculptor (1995)
INVESTORS IN AMERICA AWARD

RUDY BRUNER AWARD FOR URBAN EXCELLENCE (2009)

JIM ABDO, Abdo Development (2007)

BILL STRUEVER and STRUEVER BROS. ECCLES & ROUSE (2007)

VICKIE TASSAN, Bank of America (2005)

JOHN SNOW, Secretary of the US Treasury (2004)

JAIME LERNER, Mayor, City of Curitiba, Brazil (2002)

PARRIS GLENDENING, Governor of the State of Maryland (2002)

CATHERINE BESSANT, NationsBank (now Bank of America) (1996)

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS (1995)

ERNEST W. HAHN, San Diego developer and philanthropist (1988)

ENTREPRENEURIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY AWARD

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Mural Arts Program (2009)

CITY OF DENVER, Learning Landscapes (2009)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Local and Regional Collaborations (2008)

CITY OF ATLANTA, Beltline Partnership (2007)

CITY OF EASTON, Innovative Public/Private Partnerships (2007)

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, Strategic Planning and Budgeting Process (2007)

CITY OF KALAMAZOO, Kalamazoo Promise (2007)

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, Quality of Life Improvements (2007)

CITY OF EL PASO, Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Center (2005)

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, Affordable Housing Program (2005)

CITY OF ST. LOUIS, Downtown Revitalization (2005)
POUNDERS AWARD FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

CLARE BRET SMITH, Founder of Aid to Artisans (2009)


CARL B. WESTMORELAND, Senior Advisor at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (2007)

GLENDA HOOD, Former Secretary of State for the State of Florida (2004)

ELIZABETH PLATER-ZYBERK and ANDRES DUANY, Founders of New Urbanism (1998)

BENJAMIN HOOKS, Former Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (1995)

WILLIAM K. REILLY, Former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1988)

BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD

To see past recipients of the Bridge Builders Award and more details on all of the past honorees, please visit www.livable.org.
About Partners for Livable Communities

Partners for Livable Communities, incorporated in 1977, is a national civic organization working to improve the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development and social equity. Partners helps our nation’s communities set common visions for the future, discover and utilize their cultural and natural resources, and build public/private partnerships to realize their goals.

Serving as a national resource and information center, Partners is a catalyst for civic improvements through technical assistance, leadership training, workshops, research, advocacy and public awareness. More than 1,200 organizations throughout North America and abroad comprise Partners’ resource network. These alliances produce a powerful force to affect positive change in our communities.