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Phipps Receives Building Museums® Symposium Buidly Award for Center for Sustainable Landscapes
Pittsburgh public garden receives national recognition for landmark green building achievement.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Yesterday, March 18, 2014, Richard V. Piacentini, executive director of [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#), attended the 10th Annual Building Museums® Symposium in Miami to accept a Buidly Award from the [Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums](#) (MAAM). This honor recognizes his exemplary accomplishments in leading the public garden through the challenging process of creating a new museum space: in this case, the innovative [Center for Sustainable Landscapes](#) (CSL).

Since his tenure began in 1994, Piacentini has made many strides to revitalize Phipps, transforming the institution into a global model of sustainability with the building of the first LEED®-certified visitor center in a public garden, the first ever LEED-certified greenhouses, and the 2012 Buidly Award-winning Tropical Forest Conservatory, the most energy-efficient structure of its kind in the world when it opened in 2006. Phipps' latest accomplishment under his leadership is the CSL, a net-zero energy and net-zero water facility that has been designed to meet the progressive Living Building Challenge™. Already a recipient of LEED Platinum and Four Stars SITES™ certification from the Sustainable Sites Initiative™, it is also expected to be the first building anywhere to achieve all three of these rigorous standards.

“Phipps is deeply committed to making our buildings and operations as sustainable as possible, setting a new standard for museums worldwide,” says Richard V. Piacentini, “With the CSL, we hope to push the envelope further than ever before, inspiring transformative experiences in the space as we celebrate our innate bonds to nature, and illuminate the many benefits of sustainable building and landscaping. I am truly honored to have received the Buidly Award in recognition of this work.”

Earning recognition this year along with Piacentini is Leonard Garfield, executive director of the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle. According to MAAM, the projects initiated by both leaders stood out for their ability to demonstrate new attitudes for guiding the process of institutional growth and building design in the 21st century, including respectful preservation of historic buildings; careful pre-planning to model business growth; engagement with user groups and the surrounding community; consideration of building impacts beyond site boundaries; conservation, onsite generation of electricity and minimization of fossil fuel use; and careful management and treatment of both storm water and sanitary water on site. To learn more about the Buidly Awards, visit the MAAM website [here](#).

About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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