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The Green Heart of Pittsburgh

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U.S. Green Building Council honors Phipps' Executive Director with Leadership Award
Annual award recognizes nation's three green building leaders and visionaries

(Pittsburgh, Pa.) – Phipps' Executive Director, Richard Piacentini, will receive the esteemed 2010 Leadership Award from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) during USGBC's 2010 Greenbuild International Conference & Expo in Chicago, IL, on Friday, November 19.

The 2010 awards recognize individuals who exemplify vision, leadership and commitment to the evolution of green building design and construction in the private, public and non-governmental organization (NGO) sectors. USGBC is recognizing Piacentini for Individual Leadership in the NGO category. This recognition is the first time an individual has received an award in the non-profit sector. Piacentini has been touted for leading the transformation of Pittsburgh's century-old Conservatory into a model of green building practices and environmental awareness.

In 2009, under Piacentini's leadership, Phipps was the site of the Pittsburgh G-20 Summit Welcome and Dinner, which showcased the conservatory as a model of environmental sustainability. In October 2010, Phipps Board of Directors approved construction of the Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL), the final part of a major campus expansion that includes two already completed projects: the first LEED® certified visitors' center in a public garden and the Tropical Forest, the world's most energy-efficient conservatory. Construction for the CSL is set to begin in November, with a projected completion date of December, 2011. The CSL is expected to achieve Living Building Certification, LEED Platinum, and Four Stars in the Sustainable SITES Initiative.

"I am very excited to receive this important award from the USGBC and I think that it speaks to the tremendous dedication and passion our staff and board have to improving our relationship with the environment," said Richard Piacentini.

Additional accolades for Phipps include recognition from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the number 15 green power purchaser in the non-profit sector in the nation; designation as one of "10 Great Botanic Gardens Across the USA" according to *USA Today*; and designation as America's Greenest Garden on a national PBS television program, "Growing a Greener World."

Other awards for Phipps Conservatory and its Executive Director, Richard Piacentini, include:

- 2009 Sustainable Champion Award, American Society of Interior Designers, Western Pennsylvania
- 2009 Environmental Heroes Award, SW Pa Group Against Smog and Pollution
- 2009 Finalist, Investing in Nature Awards, Pennsylvania, The Nature Conservancy
- 2008 First Place Evergreen Award; EcoStructure Magazine
- 2008 Environmental Award, 12th Annual Carnegie Science Awards
- 2008 Finalist, Melbourne World Sustainable Building Conference
- 2008 Green Design Citation, American Institute of Architects, Pittsburgh Chapter
- 2007 Project of the Year Award, Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania
- 2007 Beyond Green High Performance Building Award, Sustainable Buildings Industry Council
- Award of Merit: Environmental, Engineering and Science 2007 Media Fellowship, Carnegie Mellon
- Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education & Research
- 2007 Green Power: Turn it On! Award, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future
- 2007 Shades of Green Leadership Award, Green Building Alliance



ABOUT PHIPPS

Built by Henry W. Phipps in 1893 at the height of Pittsburgh's industrial prowess, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens has evolved from the nation's first teaching conservatory to a distinguished eco-champion among America's 500 public gardens.

Phipps' mission is to inspire and educate visitors with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and worldwide biodiversity through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse.

Phipps is open daily from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fridays until 10 p.m. Adults, \$12; Seniors 62 and older and students with valid ID, \$11; children 2-18, \$9; children under 2, free.

For more information, call 412/622-6914 or visit phipps.conservatory.org.



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www.phipps.conservatory.org/about-hipps/media-center.aspx