



Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) announces 2016 Top 20 Common Ground Projects

TUCSON (September 20, 2016)- On Friday, Nov. 4, 2016, the Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) will hold its 12th Annual Common Ground Awards ceremony. The event honors community leaders, real estate projects and development oriented programs that overcame great obstacles through unlikely and atypical collaboration. Over the years, this ceremony has recognized over 225 exemplary projects that adhere to MPA's mission of bringing the public and private sector together to benefit the entire community.

This year, MPA's highest honor, the Award of Distinction, will recognize the Caterpillar expansion project that will bring an estimated 600 jobs to downtown Tucson. During a recent Sun Corridor luncheon, Tom Bluth, Caterpillar vice president, remarked that a significant factor in Caterpillar choosing Tucson as the site in which to consolidate their operations was the collaboration he witnessed amongst the local governments and community. Such positive outcomes are exactly the kind of efforts recognized at the unique Common Ground Awards ceremony.

MPA received nearly 50 nominations in 2016. Each finalist went through a multi-step process including participating in a panel interview where nominees were scored against weighted criteria including quality, size and complexity of the collaboration. The top 20 highest scoring nominations will be honored at the ceremony with the ultimate Top 10 projects receiving a Common Ground Award.

The Common Ground Award Finalists in alphabetical order are:

Banner University Medical Center: Transforming a Campus
Building our Workforce through ESTEAM – Engineering, Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship, Arts and Math
Clearwater and Common Ground: Storage, Recovery, and Partnership in Southern AZ and Statewide
Colossal Cave Road, Acacia Elementary to Old Vail Middle School
La Estancia Master Planned Community
Mainstreet Transitional Care Facility
Making Action Possible (MAP) Dashboard
Marist on Cathedral Square
Park Tucson: Collaborating to Promote Economic Development in Tucson's Emerging Urban Center
Paseo de Las Iglesias: Santa Cruz River Bank Protection, Ecosystem Restoration, and Linear Parkway
Pima County's Multi-Species Conservation Plan, Endangered Species Act Section 10 Permit
Pima County South Rillito West Central Interceptor Rehabilitation Project
Sahuarita Farms Land/River Master Plan
Sale of the City of Tucson's "Civano Parcel"
Steps to Success
Tucson Roadrunners
Tucson-New York City Non-Stop Air Service
U of A Garden-to-Cafeteria
Unified Development Code Text Amendment: Urban Agriculture
World View Headquarters

Celebrate finding common ground with the Metropolitan Pima Alliance on November 4th. For tickets and information, www.mpaaz.org/events/common-ground.