



**RAILYARD
STEWARDS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Fe Railyard Receives Medal from National Award Program

The Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence recognizes new center for social, civic and economic life

Santa Fe, NM – The Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation (SFRCC) and the Railyard Stewards are pleased to announce the selection of the Santa Fe Railyard Redevelopment Project as a Silver Medal recipient of the Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence. The prestigious biennial award honors urban places that, through their design and development, have lasting transformative impacts on their urban neighborhoods and communities. The Santa Fe Railyard will receive a \$10,000 prize along with three fellow Silver Medalists. This year's Gold Medal winner this year is The Bridge Homeless Assistance Center in Dallas.

“The Santa Fe Railyard and its fellow 2011 winners illustrate the combination of factors that make good design such a valuable agent of positive change,” said Brandy H. M. Brooks, director of the award program. “Beyond achieving aesthetic excellence, these projects demonstrate an intimate understanding of the users’ needs and an imperative to address their broader social, economic and environmental challenges. Each project reflects participation across a wide spectrum of community interests that came together to create beautiful, resourceful and creative urban solutions that serve the future of their neighborhoods and cities.”

Indeed the Railyard was community-driven, emerging from a 20-year community effort to shape the form and content of the redevelopment. It is a testament to the power of civic involvement in the realization of great urban spaces. When Santa Fe’s 40-acre rail yard was threatened by private development in the early 1990’s, the city mobilized to purchase and protect the historic site for a local vision. With involvement from over 6,000 community members, a master plan was developed and implemented with a unique partnership between the City of Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation, and the Trust for Public Land.

The result is a vibrant, multi-use park and public plaza that includes commercial and cultural facilities, and a commuter rail connection for Northern New Mexico within the Railyard’s historic depot. As the “family room” of Santa Fe, the Railyard complements the city’s “living room” in the historic Santa Fe Plaza by expanding civic spaces for arts, festivals and day-to-day life. The project team included Ken Smith Landscape Architect, Frederic Schwartz Architects, Surroundings Studio LLC, and public art consultant Mary Miss. The Bruner selection committee was impressed by the integration of new development with the preservation of the Railyard’s existing structures and industrial character, and lauded the project’s extensive community engagement.

SFRCC Board President Steve Robinson stated, “This prestigious national award honors the people of Santa Fe and its elected officials whose 20 year collaboration changed the course of the Railyard redevelopment into a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable community asset.” The Board President of the Railyard Stewards Tom Hnasko stated, “This award is a great honor for all Santa Feans – it recognizes that the Railyard will continue to serve the people of Santa Fe through events, collaborative youth programs, environmental education and as a place to share the diversity of our community.

Organizations that will be formally recognized by the award include (in alphabetical order): The City of Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation, The Railyard Stewards, and The Trust for Public Land.



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For more information, interviews and images:

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