



For Immediate Release

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USGBC-LA Will Present 2018 Visionary Awards to Los Angeles Lakers and UCLA at 14th Green Gala

LADWP Named "Business Leader of the Year" and GRID Alternatives Named "Nonprofit Partner of the Year"

Los Angeles, CA (November 15, 2018) – The [U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles](#) chapter (USGBC-LA) Board of Directors has selected its 2018 'visionaries', who will be recognized at the USGBC-LA 14th Annual Green Gala on December 6, 2018 at Taglyan Cultural Complex in Hollywood. This year's *Visionary Award* recognizes the Los Angeles Lakers and UCLA, who through their sustainability leadership developed cutting-edge athletic facilities that are LEED Platinum, and a model for athletic facilities around the globe. Special awards, *Business Leader of the Year* and *Non-Profit Partner of the Year*, will also be presented.

"USGBC-LA recognizes all types of projects that accelerate sustainability in the Los Angeles area, and we are excited to see sports facilities and their organizations recognizing the importance of sustainable design and resilient strategies for all involved," states Sara Neff, USGBC-LA Board Chair. "We are also thrilled to recognize partners such as LADWP and GRID who are vested in promoting sustainable practices through every aspect of their businesses."

The **Lakers'** El Segundo facility, "UCLA Health and Training Center, Home of the Los Angeles Lakers", is a premier practice training center certified LEED Platinum (Aug. 2017) and Fitwel. The training center installed Forrest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified Wood for the practice court and entry doors, and offsets approximately 15% of its energy use through photovoltaic panels.

The Lakers organization is equally focused on the sustainability of its employees, offering a fully financed health & fitness program – including on-site group training classes, lunch and learns with health industry experts, and access to a professional dietician – with the objective of increasing their health and overall wellbeing. The results across one 6-week program included weight loss, muscle gain, and elevated employee morale and camaraderie, with sick days dropping by more than 50% from the previous year.

"We are honored to be the recipients of the US Green Building Council's Visionary Award," states Joe McCormack, Sr. Vice President, Finance & Chief Financial Officer for Los Angeles Lakers. "As an organization, we are committed to sustainability and to our employee's overall well-being. We couldn't be more proud that our home, the UCLA Health Training



Center, recently obtained LEED Platinum status. In addition, we are extremely proud that our employee wellness program has helped to improve the overall health of our team and staff and will continue our efforts to create a healthier environment both at the Lakers and in the community.”

On campus at **UCLA**, the UCLA Wasserman Football Center and the Mo Ostin Basketball Center – both LEED Platinum training facilities – are part of the university’s carbon neutrality by 2025 goal and support the Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, a university-wide initiative focused on getting Los Angeles to 100% sustainability in energy, water, and biodiversity by 2050.

The Football Center focuses especially on water savings, featuring a combination of efficient plumbing solutions and greywater management programs resulting in a 72% reduction in the project’s potable water usage (197,000 gallons OR 15 average size swimming pools), and a 94% reduction in potable water discharged to the sewer. The Basketball Center focuses much of its efforts on minimizing energy demand, ensuring the mechanical and lighting systems were designed to incorporate the best use of the natural ventilation and daylighting. For instance, now an extensive underfloor duct system is used to bring outside air into the practice courts at floor level, and low speed, high volume fans exhaust warm air at roof level.

“UCLA is honored to receive this award. Our green building efforts led by Todd Lynch and our Capital Programs team, are a critical part of our carbon neutrality and sustainability strategy. USGBC-LA has been an important partner in these efforts,” states Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer, UCLA. “We look forward to continued collaboration on creating a more sustainable and resilient future for Los Angeles and the world.”

USGBC-LA will also present its *Business Leader of the Year* award to the **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power** (LADWP). This award recognizes LADWP’s outstanding leadership in leveraging their influence to increase the prevalence of sustainable business practices across the Los Angeles region. The *Non-Profit Partner of the Year* award will be awarded to **GRID Alternatives**, recognizing GRID’s outstanding leadership paving the way toward a more sustainable future through their solar energy programs, job training and support for the Los Angeles region.

“LADWP is honored to receive the award for Business Leader of the Year,” says David H. Wright, General Manager of LADWP. “Securing a sustainable future for Los Angeles requires a collective effort by other like-minded organizations, City departments and agencies and most importantly, our customers. As the largest municipal utility in the nation, we are committed to continue offering a variety of water and energy-efficient rebate and incentive programs to both our commercial and residential customers allowing them to join us in making a positive impact on the environment, while reducing their utility bills.”

"It's an honor to have USGBC-LA recognize our work," says GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles Executive Director Michael Kadish. "It demonstrates that they appreciate that equity and inclusion are critical for the success of sustainability in Los Angeles."



During the evening, the 8th Annual Sustainable Innovation Awards – L.A.’s “Oscars” of green building – will also be announced (media announcement will follow). These jury-selected projects reflect the Chapter’s emphasis on energy and water savings, air quality, good design, transportation, resiliency and community engagement.

The Awards will be presented in front of a guest list of over 400 top industry professionals from local government, real estate owners and developers, architects, engineers, contractors, and LEED professionals.

The Green Gala is supported through the donations of many corporate partners: Diamond Sponsor – Kilroy Realty Corp.; Sapphire Sponsor – Building Skills Partnership; Aquamarine Sponsors – Arup, Bernards, ChargePoint, Egan | Simon Architecture, Hathaway Dinwiddie, Integral Group, Land Mark Electric, Howard Building Corp., Yardi, and ZGF Architects. To see the most updated list of *all* sponsors, please [click here](#).

Significant annual support for USGBC-LA has come from BuroHappold, ClimateWorks Foundation, FormLA Landscaping, Howard Building Corporation, Kilroy Realty Corp and LADWP.

For more information about the Green Gala, please visit <https://usgbc-la.org/programs/green-gala/>. For sponsorship questions, please contact Julie Du Brow, julie@usgbc-la.org.

About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

Founded in 2002, USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission is to accelerate all aspects of sustainability in the built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. *Learn, Share and Lead Green.* (www.usgbc-la.org)

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