



AIA San Mateo County
A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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For Immediate Release

NATIONAL ARCHITECT GROUP AWARDS FUNDING FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN PLANNING IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

San Mateo Architects Receive Funding to Advance Community-Based Work

SAN MATEO, CA (December 1, 2006) – The American Institute of Architects San Mateo County (AIASMC) has been awarded \$7,500 of grant funding from The American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Washington, D.C. for an ambitious and collaborative initiative entitled “Pipeline to Design.”

The AIASMC is a non-profit corporation that serves as a community architectural resource and represents the interests of architects and associated professionals within San Mateo County.

With a focus on providing support and resources in advancing the development of livable communities throughout the nation, the AIA earmarked grant funding available through a competitive bid process to support the efforts of regional architect member groups participating in community-based work. Dianne R. Whitaker AIA, AIA 150 Champion of AIASMC, states, “We are very pleased with the announcement of our grant and the ability to continue to engage our community with collaborative architectural planning.”

Since its founding in 1983, AIASMC has been involved actively in community design charrettes – intense, collaborative planning sessions that serve as a way of generating design

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solutions while integrating the aptitudes and interests of a diversified group of people. These events generate public interest and serve as a catalyst for further community action. Members of AIASMC have participated in at least one community design charrette per year, addressing the following:

- Revitalizing older downtowns
- Visions for improving a downtown park
- Housing density
- Local and regional transportation
- Public libraries

Historically, the process by which community issues have been identified and developed into charrettes, has been through informal networks between AIASMC members and community leaders. The goal of the “Pipeline to Design” initiative is to systematize the outreach and selection phases of the charrette process. According to 2007 AIASMC President Ellis A. Schoichet, AIA, “This initiative will create an open, transparent and sustainable pipeline for our annual community service events.” The three-pronged initiative will focus on outreach to community organizations, establishment of an advisory group and formalizing the proposal and review process.

Funding from AIA will be used as seed money to launch and develop the infrastructure for “Pipeline to Design”.

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