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Reshaping Rochester Awards presented at luncheon

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The Rochester Regional Community Design Center presented its second annual Reshaping Rochester Awards at a sold-out luncheon Thursday. The awards honor Rochester's top architects and projects.

The luncheon was at Cutler Union at the Memorial Art Gallery Campus. Garth Fagan, founder and creative director of Garth Fagan Dance, gave the keynote address.

The I-490 Western Gateway Project received the Robert Macon Award for Urban Innovation. Howard Ressel is project design engineer, and Robert Traver is acting regional director for the state Dept. of Transportation Region 4.

The project was conceived to enhance elements of the highway as part of the reconstruction of the 35-year-old, 3.6-mile I-490 corridor that extends from the Erie Canal to the Genesee River.

Honorable mention for the Macon Award went to the Urban League of Rochester Economic Development Corp. for the Mills at High Falls.

The Betty Strassenburgh Award for Activism went to MarketView Heights Collective Action Team, a resident-led, action-driven network formed more than eight years ago under the sponsorship of PathStone Corp. to address areas of concern in the city's MarketView Heights neighborhood. Pamela Reese-Smith, PathStone community project manager, and Martin Pedrazam, a resident of the neighborhood, accepted the award.

Honorable Mention for the Strassenburgh award went to Thomas Ferraro, executive director of Foodlink Inc., for his work towards building a hunger-free community and a sustainable regional food system in the Greater Rochester area.

Lastly, the Director's Award went to the City of Rochester Public Market, which is experiencing a rebirth. James Farr, assistant director of recreation for the city, and Anthony Jordan, assistant commissioner of recreation for the city, accepted the honor.

Honorable Mention in this category went to the Cultural Center Commission, formed to implement the Cultural District Plan and revitalize the area around the Eastman School of Music and Grove Place Neighborhood.

RRCDC is a non-profit organization that has been promoting quality design in the area since 2003.

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