

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Columbia Buildings First HOPE VI Projects to Achieve LEED Certification

SEATTLE — Mithun, a Seattle-based planning and design practice, is pleased to announce that Portland's innovative New Columbia neighborhood is the first Hope VI redevelopment to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) ratings from the U.S. Green Building Council. Mithun created the master plan and provided housing architecture for New Columbia, which was redeveloped by its owner, the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP).

The two New Columbia buildings that received LEED certification are the Trenton North and Trenton South buildings. Both are mixed-use buildings consisting of a combined 74 units of rental housing. HAP's leasing office, as well as a community center, is located in Trenton North. A coffee shop, small neighborhood grocer, and community education and employment programs through Portland Community College are located on the first floor of Trenton South.

"Achieving LEED status marks an important milestone for New Columbia in that these important standards were upheld within a very tight budget and for a community that traditionally has been marginalized," says Steve McDonald, AIA, project architect at Mithun. "It reflects HUD's commitment to neighborhood revitalization and recognition that energy efficiency translates into cost savings for long-term solutions."

Mithun and HAP achieved LEED certification through a variety of changes made during the redevelopment process such as the use of salvaged materials from the demolished buildings. In addition, Trenton North and Trenton South are now 30 percent more energy efficient by utilizing an improved thermal envelope, exterior shading and high efficiency HVAC equipment. Both buildings feature storm water systems with on-site filtration. Low-flow hot water fixtures, including showers and sinks, have reduced indoor water usage by 35 percent and also contribute to the overall energy efficiency of the building.

From the start of this project, Mithun and HAP have been committed to honoring the ideals set forth by the HOPE VI Grant program. Created in 1993, the HOPE VI program's aim is to redevelop severely distressed public housing sites and create new, mixed-income communities to improve self-sufficiency of public housing residents and deconcentrate poverty. To this end, HAP invited Portland Community College to create a space for lifelong learning in the Trenton South building. This program provides the community with the opportunity to increase their skills through education

and training, leading them to better employment while building assets and equity in the community. Mithun's support of the goals in both social and environmental responsibility within the New Columbia neighborhood exudes the characteristics that consistently make the Pacific Northwest a model for progressive urban planning.

About Mithun

Mithun is a leading sustainable design practice that creates lasting places for people. The firm's innovative and collaborative spirit encompasses architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, ecology and interior design – a multidisciplinary approach for the future that integrates nature, technology and design. Mithun's commitment to sustainability extends to mixed-use, corporate, commercial, residential, civic, science and technology, higher education, environmental learning, retail, senior living, and healthcare projects. For more information, visit www.mithun.com.

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