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Boston's Planning Office for Urban Affairs, a Social Justice Organization, Honors Architect Bob Verrier for Affordable Housing Achievements

BOSTON, October 16, 2013 – Robert J. Verrier, FAIA, cofounder and managing principal of The Architectural Team, Inc., will be honored at the Planning Office for Urban Affairs biennial fall celebration, *Opening Doors + Strengthening Communities: Celebrating 45 Years of Innovation in Affordable Housing*, on Thursday, October 24th at 5:30pm at the Exchange Conference Center on Boston's Fish Pier.

The Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA) serves as a catalyst for social justice through housing development, neighborhood revitalization and affordable housing advocacy. POUA works to improve the lives of thousands of residents by developing affordable housing and rebuilding communities throughout Eastern Massachusetts. Bob Verrier will be recognized for more than four decades of service to furthering POUA's mission through affordable housing design.

The reception will bring together leaders in affordable housing development and finance as well as civic leaders, advocates and VIPs including Cardinal Séan Patrick O'Malley. It will be an uncommon occasion to witness in person the region's pledge to produce high-quality housing where all residents can live with dignity and respect in homes they can afford.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Presenters at *Opening Doors + Strengthening Communities* include Cardinal O'Malley and the sponsors include Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Rockport Mortgage. Leaders in the affordable housing community "will join together to celebrate Bob Verrier's immeasurable accomplishments and the importance of building vibrant communities where all people can live with dignity and respect in homes they can afford," wrote fundraising committee co-chairs Lisa Alberghini, POUA president, and Larry Curtis, managing partner at WinnDevelopment, in a statement about the event.

ABOUT BOB VERRIER

Commenting on Verrier's work and his award, Alberghini and Curtis wrote, "Bob Verrier is an award-winning architect with unparalleled accomplishment in historic preservation, adaptive re-use and design. He is a true leader in our industry. His work to further the mission of providing quality affordable housing is unmatched, and he has been instrumental to the success of so many communities built by the Planning Office. After having the privilege of working with Bob for over four decades and benefitting from his tremendous talent, his passion, and his commitment to our work, we are thrilled to honor him this year."

Upon learning of the honor, Verrier said, "The Architectural Team has a longstanding tradition of supporting clients like the Planning Office for Urban Affairs and the cause of providing high-quality, affordable housing ecosystems for all Americans. In our national work, we've seen the transformative effects these projects can have on neighborhoods, families, and communities."

Since cofounding The Architectural Team in 1971, Verrier and his firm have designed more than 500 affordable-housing developments totaling more than 50,000 units throughout the United States, including 30-plus developments with POUA such as West End Place Apartments, Boston; The St. Aidan in Brookline, Massachusetts; The Hayes at Haverhill Station; and St. John of God in Brighton, Mass. Recent projects of note include St. Joseph's Apartments, a 51-unit, mixed-income multifamily community in Salem, Mass., currently under construction. Several of the projects designed by Verrier and his firm have become national models of high-quality, mixed-income housing to revitalize blighted areas.

Over its more than four decades in business, The Architectural Team has also quietly transformed neighborhoods in and around Boston with award-winning waterfront, commercial, institutional and historic-reuse projects, including Baker Chocolate Factory, The Metropolitan, and more recently Lovejoy Wharf.

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