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PHIPPS RECEIVES NATIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING AWARD

(PITTSBURGH, Pa.)— Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is the proud recipient of a 2007 Beyond Green High Performance Building Award, presented by the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC). One of only eight organizations in the nation to receive the award, Phipps will accept the award on January 16 at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. The award honors the high performance design and construction of Phipps' Tropical Forest Conservatory, the most energy efficient conservatory in the world.

The High Performance Building Awards recognize the initiatives that shape, inform and catalyze the high-performance building market, as well as the real-world application of high performance design and construction practices.

“To receive a national award from a prestigious organization like the SBIC is a great honor for Phipps,” commented Phipps’ executive director Richard V. Piacentini. “While building the Tropical Forest Conservatory, we saw an opportunity to set a new standard in glasshouse design and construction. Maximizing energy-efficiency was our first priority, and as the project took shape we increasingly adjusted the design to make the conservatory more sustainable in function.” The 12,000 square foot Tropical Forest Conservatory opened in December 2006 and features new eco- technologies that make it a model for sustainable practices and construction for conservatories around the world.

Award submissions for the SBIC High Performance Building Awards were evaluated based on successful application of the design objectives of each project, and on energy and environmental considerations. The council also took into consideration benefits to the owner of the building, innovation and integration.

Along with Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the following organizations were selected to receive building awards:

SmithGroup, Inc. for the **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory – The Molecular Foundry**

Dattner Architects for the **Bronx Library Center**

Lucchesi Galati for the **Dessert Living Center and Gardens**

Lord, Aeck, Sargent Architecture for the **Gwinnet Environmental and Heritage Center**

Innovative Design, Inc. for the **The Northern Guilford Middle School**

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP for the **University of California Merced, Central Plant**

Lehrer + Gangi Design + Build for the **Water + Life Museums Campus**

Piacentini traveled to Washington D.C. to accept the award on behalf of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The awards ceremony takes place at the National Building Museum in conjunction with a US Department of Energy-sponsored lecture series.

Phipps is fast becoming America's Greenest Garden, and a leader in sustainable practices for other public gardens and conservatories around the world. In 2005, Phipps opened the Welcome Center, the nation's first LEED-certified visitor center in a public garden (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), followed by the energy-efficient Tropical Forest Conservatory in 2006. In September 2008, Phipps will break ground on the Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL), an education, research and administration center. Phipps' most ambitious project to date, the CSL is slated to be a living building that generates its own energy with renewable resources, treats all of its water on site, and uses resources efficiently.

For more information about Phipps' green initiatives and practices, contact the marketing team at (412) 441-4442 or visit www.phipps.conservatory.org.

About SBIC

The Sustainable Buildings Industry Council has been a national leader in defining the whole building approach to design since its inception in 1980. It is a non-profit organization whose mission is to unite and inspire the building industry toward higher performance through education, outreach, advocacy and the mutual exchange of ideas. For more information, visit www.SBICouncil.org.

About Phipps

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is a Victorian glasshouse, gardens and tropical forest conservatory in the Schenley Park area of Pittsburgh. During *Chihuly at Phipps: Gardens & Glass*, Phipps is open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Café Phipps and The Shop at Phipps are open during all Conservatory hours. Daytime admission rates are \$12.50 for adults, \$11.50 for seniors (62 and over) and students with ID, and \$7.50 for children ages 2 to 18. Phipps members and children under two are admitted free. Evening admission is \$15.00 for non-members and \$7.50 for members. For more information, call (412) 622-6914 or visit www.phipps.conservatory.org.

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