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COALITION

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Better Housing Coalition Announces Golden Hammer Awards Transition -- Historic Richmond and Storefront for Community Design to Co-Present in 2017

December 5, 2016 (Richmond, Va.) — Two Richmond-area nonprofits with interests in historic preservation and neighborhood revitalization will jointly assume the Golden Hammer Awards from the Better Housing Coalition (BHC) next year. Beginning in November 2017, Historic Richmond and Storefront for Community Design will co-present the awards to recognize professionals working in neighborhood revitalization, blight reduction and historic preservation in the Richmond region.

The Golden Hammer Awards have been presented for 16 years and administered by the Better Housing Coalition since 2011, when the former Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods merged with BHC and brought the awards program into the fold. Since that time, BHC recognized Golden Hammer Award winners during Groundbreakers, its legacy event honoring individuals and business partners whose leadership and vision have had a positive impact on Central Virginia communities and residents. BHC will retain Groundbreakers as its signature awards presentation.

The Golden Hammer transition reflects that award ceremony's closer alignment with the respective missions of Historic Richmond and Storefront for Community Design, according to Greta Harris, BHC's president and CEO.

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“We have been proud stewards of The Golden Hammer Awards for the past five years,” Ms. Harris said, “and, while all of the winners have made important contributions to the beautification and vitality of our neighborhoods, few have created access to affordable housing for modest income families in our region,” a mainstay of BHC’s mission.

“After some soul-searching, we decided to find a new home for the Golden Hammer Awards,” Ms. Harris said. “I’m delighted to be able to pass the baton to our friends at Historic Richmond and Storefront for Community Design to ensure the continuation of these prestigious awards.”

Ryan Rinn, Executive Director of Storefront for Community Design is no stranger to the Golden Hammer Awards, having served multiple times on its panel of jurists. “Storefront for Community Design improves the quality of life in the city of Richmond by facilitating access to planning & design resources,” he said. “After serving for three years as a judge for the Golden Hammer Awards, I am excited for Storefront to jointly present the awards with Historic Richmond and to continue to celebrate the important placemaking efforts of so many in the Richmond’s neighborhoods.”

According to Cyane Crump, Historic Richmond’s Executive Director, the Golden Hammer Awards will honor notable preservation, adaptive reuse, neighborhood revitalization and placemaking efforts in the Richmond community as before.

“Richmond’s historic buildings and places are what make it unique, beautiful and authentic,” said Ms. Crump. “We are excited to partner with two wonderful community organizations like BHC and Storefront to honor those in the community who work so hard to preserve Richmond’s distinctive historic character and spark neighborhood revitalization.”

The two organizations anticipate calling for 2017 Golden Hammer Award nominations in late March with a summer deadline for submissions, leading up to the awards presentation at an event slated for November 2. The Better Housing Coalition will be a sponsor of the event.

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About Storefront for Community Design and Historic Richmond

Storefront for Community Design improves the quality of life in Richmond by connecting people with planning and design resources. Since its beginning in 2011, Storefront has completed over 150 design sessions, 11 community engagement processes, and 7 design education series. For more information, visit www.storefrontrichmond.org.

Historic Richmond is a non-profit organization dedicated to shaping the future of Richmond by preserving our distinctive historic character, sparking revitalization and championing our past and future architectural legacy. We are champions of the past and passionate fans of its future. For more information, visit www.historicrichmond.com.

About the Better Housing Coalition

As Richmond's largest not-for-profit affordable housing developer, the Better Housing Coalition's mission is to change lives and transform communities through high-quality affordable housing. Since 1988, BHC has revitalized several historic communities and developed new ones in Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico and Petersburg. Its portfolio includes the development and operation of 15 multi-family rental communities – eight of which are for low-wealth seniors – with 1,500 rental units, and 200 new or renovated single-family homes sold to first-time home buyers. Better Housing Coalition is a member of the NeighborWorks® network. For more information, visit www.betterhousingcoalition.org.

About NeighborWorks America

For more than 35 years, NeighborWorks America, a national, nonpartisan nonprofit, has created opportunities for people to improve their lives and strengthen their communities by providing access to homeownership and to safe and affordable rental housing. In the last five years, NeighborWorks organizations have generated more than \$27.2 billion in reinvestment in these communities. NeighborWorks America is the nation's leading trainer of community development and affordable housing professionals.