growing green awards

honoring people + organizations transforming the built environment

Congratulations to the 2014 Nominees!
We invite you to learn more about the nominees by reading the executive summaries provided in their nominations.

Winners will be announced at the 6th Annual Growing Green Awards Celebration
Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Mad Art Gallery, featuring Katie Swenson from Enterprise Community Partners as the keynote speaker
Visit www.usgbc-mogateway.org/green-awards for details.

Category	Nominee	Executive Summary
Community Champion	Deb Frank Missouri Botanical Garden	Deb Frank has championed green building initiatives in St. Louis and Missouri throughout her career, from her decades deep roots in building energy efficiency engineering at William Tao and Associates to her service as Chapter Coordinator during the formation of what has grown to be our thriving USGBC Missouri Gateway Chapter. In her current role as Vice President for Sustainability for the Missouri Botanical Garden, Deb leverages the influence of her institution to grow sustainable thinking and practice throughout our region, while simultaneously keeping the Garden accountable to strongly walk its own green talk. Deb has led K-12, university, local and state government, institutional and business greening initiatives. Her exceptional questioning and problem solving skills, combined with a commitment to always "give the benefit of the doubt," set a positive tone that motivates others to persist beyond personal as well as practical obstacles.
Community Champion	Fran Cantor Creve Coeur Climate Action Task Force	Fran Cantor has been a leader for 16+ years in the City of Creve Coeur's efforts to become a more sustainable city. She has served multiple terms as Chair of the city's Horticulture, Environment and Beautification Committee and was a founding member (and current Co-Chair) of the Climate Action Task Force. In these roles Fran has served as political advocate, program organizer, community liaison, and project implementer of numerous sustainability programs, from recycling initiatives and climate action programs, to botanical programs and beautification initiatives. No one in Creve Coeur has been involved in as many aspects of the city's sustainability efforts for as many years as Fran.
Community Champion	Perennial	Perennial is a non-profit community workshop and store that seeks to make an impact on our attitude toward waste. Their mission is to build a creative culture of sustainability in which discarded items are transformed into valued and cherished resources. Perennial advances this mission through hands-on workshops where community members learn to restore furniture and found objects rather than discard them. Proceeds from Perennial's

	Perennial, cont.	educational programs and retail sales support their outreach programs, which provide opportunities for underserved populations to engage in the creative reuse process. In 2013, Perennial partnered with the Center for Women in Transition and Lydia's House to provide programs in which re-use experts worked with individuals at a point of personal transformation or transition, allowing them to learn new skills and develop confidence in their ideas and abilities.
Community Champion	St. Louis Bworks	St. Louis BWorks has transformed an historic building that had fallen into disrepair into a place where area children learn a healthy active lifestyle through bicycling, learn cutting edge technology through the use of the computer and Internet, and learn to express their ideas and imagination through writing. The new Bworks headquarters reused and repurposed as much of the original building as possible. The building also includes 25 geothermal wells and a 25 kW solar array. St. Louis BWorks is a place of education, excitement, community involvement, and a center of recycling activities that we believe enhances the students we serve and the community in which we live.
Community Champion	St. Louis Rams	The St. Louis Rams are dedicated to leading the way in sustainability in sports with the clearly defined goal of changing the mindset to show what is possible when going green, especially when it comes to executing a sustainable operation in multiple locations. By involving the community with opportunities to get involved through education and hands-on application, the time and effort put forth exemplifying sustainable leadership through energy offsets and facility upgrades, including St. Louis' first artistic solar sculpture, the Rams are charging ahead into a new way of looking at Growing Green.
Education	Dr. Tim Streicher Hoech Middle School, Ritenour School District	Dr. Tim Streicher, principal at Hoech Middle School in the Ritenour School District, has provided the critical vision and leadership needed to position his school as a model of promoting sustainability. Sustainability activities in the school have impacted not only students but the Ritenour district and wider community. They include promoting energy efficiency, recycling, composting, raising chickens, growing native plants and vegetables, keeping bees, building a greenhouse and creating an outdoor classroom to demonstrate these sustainable practices. Dr. Streicher also has embedded the issue into the school curriculum with a class on sustainability that is required for all 6th graders. Because of his work, the culture at Hoech is one in which sustainability issues are part of the fabric of school life.
Education	Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School	Students at MRH Middle School are immersed both inside and outside the classroom in a variety of experiences through the metaphor, "School as Expedition." Learning expeditions are in-depth studies of a topic that engage students through authentic projects, real life studies, fieldwork, and/or service. Expeditions occur within the school walls when the community is brought into the classroom through expert guest speakers and outside of the classroom, as a journey to conduct fieldwork. As part of this rich work MRHMS is home to gardens, an aquaponics laboratory, beehives, and multiple other sustainability efforts.

Education	Melissa Breed-Parks Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School	Melissa is the Seed to Table Coordinator/ Gardener at Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School. Melissa makes it her mission each and every day to integrate healthy eating, gardening, and sustainability into the core curriculum. Whether it's growing cotton to assist the art teacher in making paper, planting seeds to support the reading of Seed Folks, helping develop questions around Good Food Revolution, or joining discussions in sustainability classes around how we can improve our aquaponics system, Melissa is goes above and beyond to support the students at MRHMS. Melissa is continuously pushing the curriculum in all subject areas and looking for new ways to tie in her gardens and other sustainability projects around MRHMS.
Education	MICDS	At MICDS, the design and implementation of an inquiry-based, hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics curriculum is a strategic priority. Over the last few years, faculty has worked diligently to implement curriculum that is highly engaging, standards-aligned and problem-based. This drove the construction of the 86,000 square foot McDonnell Hall and Brauer Hall that will provide ample space for inquiry-based and interdisciplinary learning in STEM disciplines. The building will be a teaching tool, featuring design elements that aspire to meet the highest LEED™ certification, including 100kW PV panels, energy-efficient HVAC solar thermal systems, and a storm water filtration system. The School's sustainability efforts are not solely focused on the new building – this is a campus-wide commitment that includes solar panels, water diversion processes, waste reclamation efforts and support for ongoing education for students, teachers and the community regarding best practices and environmental stewardship.
Education	Missouri S&T Solar Team	The Missouri S&T Solar House Team is a student design team that seeks to advance the University, community and environment through focused research, public education and sustainable design. The team has over 60 undergraduate members who work tirelessly to design and construct a 100% solar-powered home. They compete in the Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon which challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and attractive. The Solar House team has entered 5 separate houses in the biannual event that started in 2002, and has brought each house home to Rolla and set up it up in the Solar Village for Student Living, continued research, and public outreach. Many students pursue careers in sustainability after their experience with the Solar House Team and some alumni have gone on to become leaders in sustainability.
Emerging Leader	Cassandra Hage St. Louis Earth Day	Cassie Hage has only been working at St. Louis Earth Day since 2010, but her commitment to sustainability has been lifelong. Her success in growing St. Louis Earth Day into the 2nd largest Earth Day festival in the country is a measure of her leadership talents. Cassie lives the sustainable mission of her career in her daily life as well. She has a highly productive urban garden, chooses to walk, bike or use transit, and is a founding member of a community garden. A great example of Cassie's initiative can be found in her academic career. When she wanted to study environmental sciences, but her school did not offer the

	Cassandra Hage, cont.	program, Cassie worked with the administration to start the program and was the first person to graduate from Truman State with a degree in Environmental Science. She sees a lack of sustainable choices not as an obstacle, but rather an opportunity to improve the world around her.
Emerging Leader	City Garden Montessori Charter School	City Garden Montessori Charter School's (CGMS) mission is "to provide a high-quality education to a diverse student population following the philosophy of Maria Montessori, and to cultivate young people who value and respect themselves, others, the environment, and the world community." CGMS is a community that strives to live its values and be intentional about every aspect of leadership, demonstrating that public schools can exhibit their values through operations. CGMS' move from a church basement to a new facility provided an opportunity to be intentional about joining the sustainability movement and advancing sustainable practices within school operations and within the broader school community. CGMS is now working with UIC/CDO to integrate elements of the LEED scorecard and built environment into the curriculum to create the "green leaders of tomorrow."
Emerging Leader	Eric Schwarz Refab STL	Eric Schwarz is the Founder and Executive Director of Refab, a nonprofit organization that, in its first year, has diverted 750 tons of building material from area landfills, created seven full-time jobs, and trained eight homeless veterans from the St. Patrick Center for green industry careers. Prior to founding Refab, Eric worked as the Sustainability Coordinator at Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis, where he established several successful sustainability programs and managed the ReStore Deconstruction Program. Eric and his team maintain a leading-edge focus in sustainability, sourcing properties slated for demolition and carefully assessing salvageable materials, working to save valuable materials that would otherwise be lost to landfills and that make St. Louis iconic. Whether flooring, electrical or plumbing fixtures, Eric is a master at identifying, deconstructing, and reclaiming items of our built environment to promote its collective and creative re-use.
Emerging Leader	James Dice M360, Inc.	As a young leader in the engineering profession, primarily energy engineering, James Dice exemplifies the profile of an emerging leader. Since joining M360 three years ago, James quickly learned methods to reduce energy consumption in buildings, implemented these strategies on over twenty projects and created innovative methods for sustaining improvements and savings over time. James has earned the respect of his peers and mentors by becoming immersed in the industry through self-directed learning and active participation in several organizations, including USGBC Missouri Gateway Chapter. He continues to seek out opportunities to be more active in the local community where he can contribute his knowledge and talents to improving sustainability across the region.
Emerging Leader	Mary Ostafi HOK / Urban Harvest STL	Mary Ostafi has dedicated her career to furthering the cause of sustainability, both at the workplace and in her community. She is a Sustainability Specialist with HOK and the founder of a local nonprofit, Urban Harvest STL. Through HOK's Occupant Engagement Program, Mary specializes in engaging building stakeholders in driving sustainability practice. This whole building approach to sustainability bridges the gap between building design and

	Mary Ostafi, cont.	performance and provides a platform for collaboration; connecting all building occupants around a common goal – sustainability. Her passion for urban agriculture led her to form Urban Harvest STL and pioneer a grassroots effort to build the first downtown St. Louis community garden, enabling residents to grow their own food in the urban core. As an emerging leader of sustainability, Mary has made great strides in advancing sustainable practices both personally and professionally as they relate to our built environment.
Emerging Leader	Maryville University's USGBC Student Group	The Maryville's USGBC Student Group is relatively new – only in its second year as an official student group on campus. Already this group has proven to be tremendously dedicated to USGBC and Maryville by participating in and leading a number of green awareness projects in our community.
Emerging Leader	Paul Hamilton Hamilton Hospitality	Paul has a whole life approach to sustainability – every decision he makes, personally and professionally, includes consideration of the impact it will have on our planet and future generations. This approach has become so second nature to him and his business operations, that it's doubtful he knows how to operate Hamilton Hospitality any other way. Incorporating sustainable practices at home and in his businesses, Paul has created an operational strategy that results in the fresh, first rate dining experiences he's known for in the comfort and beauty of several sustainably restored historic buildings. A quiet leader with a pioneering spirit, this unsung hero of the planet incorporates sustainability into daily operations, employee training and property development. Paul sets an example for not only the local food industry but also the St. Louis City built environment.
Emerging Leader	St. Louis University, Department of Facilities Planning and Construction	The Department of Facilities Planning & Construction is helping Saint Louis University achieve their sustainability goals by leading by example. In 2013 SLU, with the help of the Department repurposed the West Pine Gym built in 1925. The building features 360 degree natural light, water bottle filling stations, and a refinished wood gymnasium floor. The Department is where the rubber meets the road in sustainable construction practices. They plan but also implement; putting sustainable building materials in their historic buildings. Materials include high recycled content ceilings, low VOC adhesives and steel studs engineered to use less steel. The Department is challenged with maintaining the allure of classic St. Louis architecture while championing green building practices. Their choices enhance the student, faculty experience with improved acoustics, air quality and ambiance by using sustainable materials that provide form as well as function.
Emerging Leader	Todd Bundren Lawrence Group	Todd Bundren, an associate and emerging leader at Lawrence Group, has taken a prominent role advocating sustainability for the built environment. He has made great strides in advancing sustainable practices professionally, having coordinated the sustainable design aspects and all third party verifications for more than $200 million in construction value. Securing his spot as a green leader of tomorrow, Todd was one of a select group of professionals invited to Washington D.C. to help create exam questions for the U.S. Green Building Council. Publically committed to building sustainability, Todd currently serves on the program committee for USGBC Missouri Gateway Chapter. Todd's passion for sustainable

	Todd Bundren, cont.	design and pioneering spirit led him to spearhead Lawrence Group's "Green Team," a cross-functional team that identifies and implements operational strategies to drive sustainable practices forward, and Lawrence Group's "LEED Study Group," to prepare Lawrence Group employees to take LEED accreditation exams.
Innovation	Epique Equestrian	Epique Equestrian is a premiere boarding and training facility of dressage horses in the St. Louis metro area - it is also a sustainable farm. The biggest challenge in any commercial equestrian facility is manure management. Many stables hire a waste company to haul away manure. After hours strategizing and researching the science of composting, a system was developed to turn waste into organic matter! Epique Equestrian would like to see more of a public awareness in promoting the importance of compost and how it benefits rural and urban communities by improving the soil for plant growth. With gardening as one of the most popular hobbies in the United States, people are taking an active role in knowing where their food comes from and making healthier choices. It is such a sense of accomplishment to take a daily mass amount of waste and turn it into one of nature's miracle!
Innovation	Gary Steps Butterfly Energy Works	From the beginning, Gary has consistently pushed the envelope of building science. Because each construction project builds on earlier projects, Gary meticulously evaluates energy usage. He recently consulted on a new home in the Dogtown neighborhood in the City of St Louis. The home integrates a significant number of advanced building materials, technologies, and techniques. Features include a R49 ICF first floor, R70 SIPs roof, triple pane windows, the smallest available ground source heat pump, a small PV array boosting the building to Net Zero Energy Plus, and a solar thermal array. It is fully monitored for interior temperature and humidity, electrical production and usage, hot water production and usage, and circuit by circuit electrical usage. The building is performing as planned and modeled. Gary is now involved in multiple new projects that integrate lessons learned from this project, while introducing new technologies and techniques.
Innovation	Hellmuth + Bicknese Architects	Since its inception Hellmuth + Bicknese Architects has been a leader in green buildings with numerous innovations that have led to dramatic improvements in building energy and environmental performance. These include participation on over 17 LEED certified buildings and four Living Building Projects, and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of two college forests. Hellmuth + Bicknese is proud to have also involved students in the design and construction process - with arts and science integration as well as the extensive use of student made FSC wood trim and student designed and made FSC wood furniture. Hellmuth + Bicknese aims to spread these innovations to others by encouraging all their LEED clients to develop educational programs to share with the broader community , by giving building tours themselves, by giving lectures and authoring articles and most recently by purposefully designing buildings that teach.
Operational Excellence	Sigma-Aldrich	Sigma-Aldrich, a leading Life Science and High Technology company focused on enhancing human health and safety, manufactures and distributes more than 200,000 chemicals, biochemicals and other essential products to more than 1.4 million customers

	Sigma-Aldrich, cont.	globally in research and applied labs as well as in industrial and commercial markets. With this delicate product, they also strive to operate at highly set sustainable standards, awarding them titles like #20 Most Sustainable Company in the World by Corporate Knights on the Global 100 at Davos and the Natural Capital Leader by Trucost and GreenBiz. Besides that, they are the only locally headquartered company in St. Louis to be recognized by CDP, Dow Jones Sustainability Index. Using third-party verification systems, Sigma-Aldrich is operating at the top for efficient Operational Excellence.
Operational Excellence	St. Louis Zoo	Saint Louis Zoo is a world renowned conservation organization and beloved destination to over 3 million visitors annually. The Zoo's mission to protect wild things in wild places throughout the world is also expressed in the design, construction, operation and maintenance here at home on our 90 acre campus in Forest Park. In addition to the research and conservation work around the world, the organization has emerged as a sustainability leader in the region by substantially reducing energy, water, and resource use. Each year, the Zoo diverts over 50% of total waste from the landfill and combined energy efficiency initiatives have avoided over $1,608,112 in utilities and other expenditures. Extensive educational programming to visitors and employees has promoted personal actions that encourage a deep connection with nature and the animals with whom we share the planet.
Restoration	DJM Ecological Services, Inc.	DJM Ecological Services, Inc. is an established leader in restoration, focusing on Midwest native plant communities and providing comprehensive natural area restoration and stewardship. Since its inception, DJM has provided services to a variety of clients ranging from private landowners to corporate campuses, in addition to Federal, State and local municipalities landscapes with rare beauty and ecology.
Restoration	Green Street St. Louis	Green Street St. Louis distinguishes itself through the application of sustainable design and building principles in the adaptive reuse of infill locations by perceiving the future transformation where others do not. Green Street partners with tenants, the community, and investors in this vision of neighborhood regeneration and the economic value created by investing in underappreciated sub-markets. By coupling a commitment to sustainable development with the assets that exist in these neighborhoods such as walkability, transportation access, proximity to quality labor, irreplaceable architectural attributes, and incentives, Green Street delivers projects with its own version of a triple-bottom line: financial value, sustainable outcomes and community transformation. Green buildings with lower operating costs are by-product of Green Street's approach. Since its creation in 2008, Green Street has achieved 8 LEED certifications with 3 more projects pursuing certification. 9 of these are restoration and adaptive reuse, integrating a building's existing design and materials with modern, urban construction to blend past and future into a highest and best use.
Restoration	nFORM Architecture	One of the core principals of nFORM Architecture is to design with sustainability in mind. We believe adaptive-reuse projects and the restoration of existing buildings are crucial and common sense ways to be sustainable. The redevelopment of properties can also have a

	nFORM Architecture, cont.	positive impact on communities large or small. When developers improve blighted properties, neighboring owners tend to do the same. When historic buildings are preserved, there is an appreciation from community members for maintaining a part of their history. Incorporating good design that improves longevity, functionality and energy efficiency should always be a priority. We have had the opportunity to work on a variety of existing buildings over the years and many of those projects have either received LEED certification or are in the process of obtaining it. We have worked on preserving historic courthouses, renovating numerous county facilities, office buildings, schools and have consulted as LEED experts on other renovation projects.
Restoration	Wexford Science + Technology	Wexford Science & Technology, LLC is the primary laboratory and office developer within the Center of Research and Technology Exchange (CORTEX) district, the St. Louis hub of bioscience and technology research, development and commercialization. They have created a community that has a positive triple bottom line: economic, social and environmental. With the @4240 building in the CORTEX district, Wexford was able to highlight the historical character of the building while renovating the property within historic guidelines. Wexford is awaiting the LEED Platinum certification for the project, which will make 75% of their properties LEED certified. Wexford successfully integrates sustainability into their design process, and they have a proven commitment to sustainable design. Their innovative adaptive reuse projects in research districts strengthen communities and enhance urban and economic environments.

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