



REAL ESTATE NEWS

Affordable housing awards celebrate Oceanside project, rehab of old apartments



Mission Cove in Oceanside won the Ruby Award for new housing project of the year. (San Diego Housing Federation)

By PHILLIP MOLNAR
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Trying to find affordable housing in San Diego County can feel a bit like searching for a needle in a haystack.

But, there are people and organizations trying to increase the stock of subsidized apartments and many of their efforts were celebrated Thursday night at the Ruby Awards. The annual competition from the San Diego Housing Federation, now in its 29th year, gave awards for big projects and smaller rehab efforts.

Winners were selected by a panel of 12 jurors and awards were given at the U.S. Grant Hotel. Projects had to be completed between Jan. 1, 2018 and Dec. 31, 2018.

New project of the year: Mission Cove



Ruby Awards: The courtyard of Mission Cove (Joerg Boetel)

A 288-unit subsidized [housing complex](#) in Oceanside received top honors because it offered more to the surrounding community than just apartments. Mission Cove also includes 10,500 square-feet of retail, 8,700 square feet of open, community space and outdoor amenities. Judges said: “Mission Cove offers a unique residential makeup that promotes social connections, interactions and a sense of community to its residents.”

The project was built by National Community Renaissance and Community HousingWorks.

Rehab project of the year: Town and Country Village Apartments



Ruby Awards: Town & Country Apartments won best rehab project of the year. (San Diego Housing Federation)

Town and Country Village Apartments is a Mountain View apartment building that had included 97 subsidized apartments and 46 market-rate apartments. It was converted to turn all the apartments to subsidized units and keep it that way for 55 years. In addition to rehabilitation, developers added a community center that runs after-school programs and adult education classes. The project was developed by San Diego Housing Commission, Housing Development Partners and Chelsea Investment

John Craven Memorial Award: The Clairemont Coalition on Homelessness

The federation said this award honors organizations or people that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate the creation of affordable housing. This year, it went to the Clairemont Coalition on Homelessness. Judges said the coalition had advocated strongly for more housing solutions for the homeless.

Innovations Award: Rebecca Louie



Ruby Awards: Rebecca Louie won the innovations award. (San Diego Housing Federation)

Rebecca Louie, chief operating officer at Wakeland Housing, was honored for creating the [Supportive Housing Operators Network](#). The program helps housing property managers who work with individuals with complex needs. Judges said: “With over 15 years of experience, her creative leadership approach has helped identify major challenges and gaps facing the affordable and supportive housing industry.”

Outstanding Government Agency or Elected Official: Chris Ward



Ruby Awards: San Diego Councilman Chris Ward won for outstanding elected official. (San Diego Housing Federation)

Judges said San Diego Councilman Chris Ward was honored for his work creating a supportive housing bond measure for the 2020 election and helping secure \$30 million in homeless aid funds. Judges said: “He is consistently passionate in this work and tirelessly champions policy efforts as well as funding and resources for desperately needed housing in San Diego. ”

Outstanding Development Partner: Charles Davis with Urban West Development

Charles Davis, principal at Urban West Development, was honored for his work overseeing 17 subsidized housing developments and more than 1,000 subsidized apartments. Judges said: “Davis’ strong drive for housing and community enhancement combined with his easygoing manner has been a reason for his many affordable housing successes of which he has played a significant production role.”

SDG&E Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Award for Retrofit: The Allison



Ruby Awards: The Allison won for energy efficiency and sustainability. (San Diego Housing Federation)

[The Allison](#) apartment building in Webster was given high marks for the rehabilitation of the supportive housing development into an energy efficient building. The 58-unit complex was outfitted with energy-conserving materials, solar panels and other new materials.

Outstanding Advocate: Scott Dreher

Judges said homeless advocate Scott Dreher has shown dedication and leadership over the years in helping the less fortunate. “He has persisted fearlessly in this work for more than 30 years,” the award said.

Outstanding Service to Residents: Diana Aguiar

Diana Aguiar, the services coordinator for [Hope through Housing](#), was awarded for

her work helping residents across 17 properties and 4,500 residents. Judges said:
“She connects with her residents of varied backgrounds, cultures, ages and languages
and makes them all feel special.”

Outstanding Resident Leader: Lavearn London



Ruby Awards: Lavearn London won for outstanding resident leader.
(AUDA/San Diego Housing Federation)

Lavearn London is a resident of Hillside Views, a subsidized apartment complex in Oak Park. She advocates for subsidized housing and volunteers for the federation’s Residents United Network. London also gets involved in politics, registering people to vote and making more than 300 phone calls to advocate for pro-affordable housing efforts Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 last year.



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