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THE BRANCH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2024 VAXDESIGN AWARDS *VAXDesign Recognizes Virginian Designers and Celebrates Design within the Commonwealth*

Richmond VA, August 12th, 2024 — The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design is thrilled to announce the winners of their annual design awards, VAXDesign. With a record-breaking number of engaging and creative submissions, the 2024 winners embodied the visionary thinking and patronage that the VAXDesign Awards recognize, utilizing design to make Virginia a more equitable, beautiful, and productive space for all its citizens.

The winners of VAXDesign were chosen by an impartial jury of Jury Chairman Robert Easter, FAIA, NOMAC, President at KEi Architects; Cabell Harris, Creative Director at WORK Labs; Karen Van Lengen, Professor of Architecture at University of Virginia; Edwin Slipek, author and editor; and Bob Steele, FAIA, as Branch Board Liaison.

THE 2024 VAXDESIGN WINNERS (SEPARATED BY CATEGORY):

THE BRANCH MEDALLION AWARD WINNER: CALDER LOTH, RICHMOND, VA

The Branch Medallion is given to acknowledge and celebrate extraordinary patronage of and/or support for the architecture and/or design community in Virginia.

Calder Loth is the retired Senior Architectural Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, where he served for 41 years and still works part time.

Branch Board of Trustee Chair, Walter Dotts, states, “The Board of Trustees of The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design has chosen to honor Calder Loth in 2024 with its most prestigious award, The Branch Medallion. Mr. Loth’s contributions to the fields of architectural history and historic preservation are unique in their depth and breadth, defining and detailing the classical foundations of Virginia’s and our nation’s architectural heritage.”



VISION IN DESIGN AWARD WINNER: BURT PINNOCK, FAIA - NOMA, RICHMOND, VA



This honor recognizes a visionary thinker such as an educator, author, critic, curator, preservationist or designer who has had a profound impact or influence on design education, theory, practice or public awareness.

Over his 30+ year career, Burt’s commitment and passion has created impactful work for neighborhoods, cultural institutions, and forward-thinking organizations, including William & Mary, Emory University, University of Richmond, The Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, Better Housing Coalition, and many more. A founder of the nonprofit Storefront for

Community Design, Burt also currently serves on the City of Richmond Planning Commission, and is a board member of the Legal Aid Justice Center, Historic Richmond Foundation, and Venture Richmond, amongst numerous other board and committee engagements. Pinnock is the lead architect of The Shockoe Project – a 10-acre site located in downtown Richmond that will commemorate pivotal sites such as the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, Winfree Cottage, the Reconciliation Statue Plaza, Richmond’s First African Burial Ground, and the future National Slavery Museum.

DESIGN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER: THE VALENTINE MUSEUM – SCULPTING HISTORY AT THE VALENTINE STUDIO: ART, POWER, AND THE “LOST CAUSE” AMERICAN MYTH, RICHMOND, VA

This award is given to a corporation or institution for utilizing design as a strategic tool in their mission and consistently exhibiting ingenuity and insight in relating design to quality of life.

The design of the installation employs sculpture, architecture, multi-media, and primary sources to illuminate the complex history of the Lost Cause monuments from their Jim Crow era conception to the grassroots movements that paved the way for their removal. While many Lost Cause monuments have been removed across the nation since 2020, the installation helps visitors look beyond the sculptures to the social and historic power structures that continue to shape our communities while thinking critically about our future.



EMERGING DESIGNER AWARD WINNER: KYLE SCHUMANN, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA



This award honors a designer, not yet licensed or professionally certified, who demonstrates an exemplary level of excellence in design execution and a dedication to advancing the discipline.

Schumann’s body of work is aimed at advancing sustainable construction methods through the development and leveraging of accessible, democratized technologies deployed to understand, evaluate, and make strategic use of natural materials.

PRIZE FOR PUBLIC INTEREST AWARD WINNER: BROWNBAYLOR – ARTHUR ASHE BLVD RENAMING PROJECT, RICHMOND, VA

This award is given to a creative project that has transformed its surroundings, whether a setting, neighborhood or community. It is for an individual or entity responsible for shepherding the project within Virginia.

The Arthur Ashe Boulevard project is a transformative urban design initiative dedicated to honoring the legacy of tennis icon and humanitarian Arthur Ashe. This project reimagines a major corridor in Richmond, Virginia, as a beacon of inclusivity, education, and cultural reflection.





**PRIZE FOR PUBLIC INTEREST HONORABLE MENTION: SIMONE PATERSON
– THE LANSDOWNE WALKABILITY PROJECT, ROANOKE, VA**

The Lansdowne Walkability Project eases the community’s daily burden of navigating speeding vehicles to cross the street to access services while fostering a sense of calmness, joy, safety, and improved quality of life.

**SALLY BROWN EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNER: ANDREW
GIPE-LAZAROU – BLIND DESIGN WORKSHOP, BLACKSBURG, VA**

This award honors exceptional educators who have significantly advanced design education through innovative teaching methods, impactful research, and unwavering dedication to student success. The award aims to inspire excellence and foster a community committed to shaping the future of design.

Gipe-Lazarou created the Blind Design Workshop, the world’s only career exploration experience in architecture for individuals with vision impairment. It challenges sighted students of architecture to question ocular-centrism, discover the multi-sensory potential of their profession, and to consider the significance of accessible space-making.



The Branch will honor the award winners with an awards ceremony followed by a cocktail celebration on Friday, October 18th at 6pm at The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design. Tickets are available at www.branchmuseum.org/vaxdesign.

ABOUT THE BRANCH MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN (OR THE BRANCH):

The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design – housed in a 1919 John Russell Pope building on the National Register of Historic Places – explores the impact of design in everyday life, working with individuals and communities to create a more equitable, beautiful, and productive future. Through thought-provoking exhibitions, we aim to spark creativity, joy, and appreciation for design excellence. Through forward-thinking programs, we empower people to recognize and advance successful design solutions to better lives.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design is at 2501 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220. The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday 10am–5pm, and Sundays 1pm–5pm. Admission is pay-what-you-can. For general information please call 804-655-6055 or visit www.branchmuseum.org

The Branch
Museum of Architecture and Design

