



HAYC
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF YAMHILL COUNTY

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Housing Authority of Yamhill County Earns Local and National Awards

Yamhill County, OR – The Housing Authority of Yamhill County (HAYC) was recently honored with a national award for Deskins Commons Apartments located in Newberg, Oregon.



The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), America's leading housing and community development professional association, presented an Award of Excellence in Program Innovation – Project Design to Elise Hui, HAYC Executive Director on behalf of HAYC on October 15, 2015 at the NAHRO National Conference and Exhibition at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Nominated from among the Award of Merit winners each year, these competitive awards are chosen by national juries to recognize outstanding innovation and achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the country. Winners are honored at the National Conference and Exhibition and in articles in the Journal of Housing and Community Development.

In addition to the NAHRO Agency Award of Excellence and NAHRO National Award of Merit for Program Innovation – Project Design, HAYC was also a winner of the Pacific Northwest Regional Award for Innovative Services (PRAIS) in the category of Project Design as well as the City of Newberg 2015 Community Enhancement Award for Deskins Commons.



Pictured: Commissioner Kevin Robertson holding City of Newberg 2015 Community Enhancement Award; Executive Director Elise Hui holding PRAIS Award; Maintenance Supervisor Mike Jager and Commissioner Phil Griffin holding Deskins Commons Award Board; Board Chair Joyce Morrow holding NAHRO Agency Award of Excellence; and Commissioner Mike Gougler holding NAHRO National Award of Merit. Not pictured: Commissioner H. Fred Mickelson.

Deskins Commons is a new 56-unit workforce and special needs affordable housing development that opened in August 2014 in Newberg, Oregon. The property includes seven new buildings constructed around the historic Todd House which has been extensively renovated and sits honorably in the middle of the site.

The development of this 3+ acre site required extensive efforts working with local government and surrounding neighbors to change property zoning, preserve the existing historic home and larger trees; deal with poor soil percolation; integrate into the neighborhood without being intrusive, and create a safe environment for residents. The resulting development addresses all of these issues and creates a cornerstone property of which all can be proud.

Important design goals of the project included preserving as many of the existing large Oregon White Oaks as possible; preserving and enhancing sightlines to the Todd House from Meridian Street; providing scale and density appropriate to the neighborhood; providing ample open space and view corridors; and creating a sense of architectural continuity between the Todd House and new construction. More than half of the 56 units are in the U-shaped, three story-building located behind the Todd House on the back half of the property. The U-shape of the building creates a semi-enclosed courtyard where residents can visit and children can play safely. The three story-building also has a large community room with a community kitchen and children's playroom as well as a laundry room. The overall design of Deskins Commons provides residents "a neighborhood within the neighborhood," where children can roam and explore while remaining within safe confines of the site.

The Todd House renovation was completed with reuse of existing materials to preserve the historic character of the building. Its use as a Site Manager's home, leasing office, computer lab, and other community space make the historic structure a focal point of the development and maintains visual connectivity with all buildings on the site.



The funding for Deskins Commons was provided by Wells Fargo Bank and Network for Affordable Housing (NOAH) as well as Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and includes federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits and Section 8 Project Based Vouchers. Other important partners for the project included Studio C Architecture LLC (FKA IDEA Architecture & Development, LLC) as project architect, Housing Development Center as development consultant, and Bremik Construction as General Contractor.

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