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RACER Trust Names AUCH Construction of Pontiac, MI, Winner of Second RACER's Edge Award for Redevelopment Excellence

LOS ANGELES — [RACER Trust](#) today announced it has honored [AUCH Construction](#) of Pontiac, Mich., with its second RACER's Edge Award, in recognition of AUCH's successful redevelopment of a former RACER property in downtown Pontiac.

Elliott P. Laws, of EPLET, LLC, administrative trustee of RACER Trust, presented the award to AUCH President Vince DeLeonardis on Wednesday night at a reception at the JW Marriott Los Angeles at L.A. Live, in conjunction with the biennial U.S. EPA National Brownfields Training Conference.

"Vince and his team have done a tremendous job creating a vibrant new company headquarters from what for many years had been a vacant and blighted property," Mr. Laws said. "Not only did they chose to keep a 111-year-old company in Pontiac, they did so in a building that was meticulously designed to maximize energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact. Less than two years after opening, the AUCH headquarters is a Pontiac landmark and a testament to both AUCH's ingenuity and its commitment to Pontiac. We couldn't be prouder to honor AUCH with this award."

AUCH, a planning and construction management firm founded in 1908, specializes in K-12 and higher-education construction, health care facilities, municipal projects, houses of worship, and commercial and industrial development.

"We're very proud of the work our team has done in Pontiac as well as in the entire southeast Michigan region. In the planning and design of our new headquarters, we wanted something the community would be just as proud of as we are," Mr. DeLeonardis said. "Our goal was to incorporate the feedback we had solicited from our employees along with the principals of sustainability that represents the philosophy of the company in regard to corporate responsibility and stewardship. The result was to create a workplace that attracts and retains the area's top talent, further improves outstanding client service and demonstrates our commitment to serve our community. We're grateful that RACER Trust and the Pontiac community saw the value in the opportunity we presented, and that we have met and surpassed expectations with this project. I accept this award on behalf of the women and men who have spent more than a century creating and sustaining AUCH Construction."

The AUCH headquarters building features an open floor plan that makes use of extensive natural daylight, features a lighting system that adjusts automatically to the natural light, and is projected to be U.S. Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certified, a globally recognized symbol of quality and sustainability achievement. In addition, the parking lot uses natural swales to manage storm water runoff, considerably reducing the load on the local municipal treatment system.

“Vince and his team at AUCH represent the very best in corporate citizenship, and I am proud not only that they chose to remain in Pontiac, but that they have built a beautiful headquarters in a highly visible location that signals to all that great things are happening in our city,” said Pontiac Mayor Dr. Deirdre Waterman. “On behalf of the city, I extend my congratulations and my gratitude to the AUCH team for believing in Pontiac and contributing so much to our community. AUCH has been a valued partner in Pontiac’s comeback success, not only by being loyally headquartered in Pontiac for 40-plus years, but also, the company itself has built a new headquarters on a former RACER Trust property, thus setting the tone for the kind of revitalization and repurposing of sites that has characterized the RACER Trust involvement in Pontiac.”

AUCH employs approximately 105 construction managers, engineers, field superintendents and skilled trades men and women along with administrative/accounting support personnel in Pontiac.

Ashley Capital won the inaugural RACER’s Edge Award in 2017 for its successful redevelopment of a former RACER property in Livonia, Mich., now home to logistics operations for Amazon and Republic National Distributing Co.

About RACER Trust: RACER (Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response) Trust was created to clean up and position for redevelopment properties and other facilities owned by the former General Motors Corp. before its 2009 bankruptcy. RACER is one of the largest holders of industrial property in the United States and is the largest environmental response and remediation trust in U.S. history. When the Trust was formed, it owned properties at 89 locations in 14 states, principally in the Midwest and Northeast. The Trust was created by a settlement agreement in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court between the U.S. Government, the 14 states where the former GM properties are located, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, which owns land adjoining one of the properties in Upstate New York. For more information, please visit our website: www.racertrust.org.

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