

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Puerto Rico and UK winners to receive trophy on world stage

On Monday 17 October the winners of the World Habitat Awards 2015/16 will be presented with their trophies at Habitat III. Housing professionals and decision makers from around the world will be at Habitat III which is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. The two winners were chosen from submissions from around the world. And although thousands of miles apart from each other both projects demonstrate how empowered communities have transformed people's lives by creating affordable and safer homes for those in need.

Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust in Puerto Rico is one of the winners. The Caño Martin Peña Channel was once a waterway that ran through the middle of the Puerto Rican capital San Juan. Eight informal communities have organised themselves into a Community Land Trust to transform this polluted and flood prone tidal channel into a sustainable community. A Community Land Trust or CLT is a model of home ownership that develops and manages affordable housing on behalf of the community. It does this by separating the value of the land and the buildings. Land is held in perpetuity by the community enabling it to remain affordable for local people.

Canopy and Giroscope are joint winners. The first UK based winners for over a decade. They work in cities in the North of England and are pioneers in a movement of UK housing providers called 'Self Help Housing'. These housing charities train homeless and vulnerable people to renovate abandoned properties and bring them back into use. The completed houses provide low cost homes for homeless local people who are homeless or in housing need.

David Ireland, Director of BSHF said: "This really is an example of how the World Habitat Awards puts outstanding housing projects under the international spotlight and on the world stage. These winners deserve this recognition as they have gone above and beyond the call of duty to transform lives and ensure vulnerable people, families and children now have securer and safer homes."

As well as giving recognition to these projects the awards aim to support the winners in scaling up their efforts and transferring their approaches to groups facing similar situations in different countries and contexts.

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Notes to editors



Full details about World Habitat Awards can be found online at www.worldhabitatawards.org

The presentation will take place from 3.30pm on Monday 17 October on the Urban Stage at Habitat III conference.

To arrange interviews with the winners or for photography please contact: Kim Salt, Communications Manager, email kim.salt@bshf.org; tel +44 (0)1530 510444. We will also be tweeting from the conference using the account www.twitter.com/bshf

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards of £10,000 are given annually to projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems.