



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## URBAN BOATBUILDERS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF NEW WORKSHOP

*Saint Paul, MN, January 31, 2015* – Urban Boatbuilders (UBB) will hold an open house on Sunday, February 8, 2015 to celebrate the grand opening on our new workshop at 2288 University Avenue West in Saint Paul. Community members, funders, volunteers and members of the press are invited to join us for this event. UBB staff and boat building apprentices, along with several of the organization’s founders, will be on hand to discuss our work, lead hands-on activities, and answer questions. The event will also include beverages and desserts.

Our new workshop, featuring 5,000 square feet of boat building space, offices, storage and meeting rooms is a vital part of our plans to offer even more young people the chance to experience success through the building and use of wooden boats. UBB wishes to thank Kraus Anderson for contributing a significant amount to building out our new space.

“As one of the founders of Urban Boatbuilders, I am delighted to see UBB growing and thriving under the leadership of our current Board and staff. After 20 years in the boat shop space on the east side of the Midway Shopping Center, our vision of making a difference in the lives of teens has found a new home. I’m pleased to have a great reason for all of us to celebrate with each other and our youth participants.” - David Gagne, Former UBB Executive Director and long-time Board Member

### *Organization information:*

2015 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Urban Boatbuilders, which builds youth, one boat at a time. Urban Boatbuilders works with youth to develop leadership, academic and vocational skills through the building and use of wooden boats. Our two signature programs are:

*Boatbuilding Partnerships:* We partner with schools, churches, and other youth-centered organizations to customize boat building projects to meet their particular needs. Whether focused on developing academic skills, conflict resolution or teamwork, these hands-on projects are highly effective learning tools. And the partner organization ends up with one or more of our high-quality, hand-built boats.

*Apprentice Program:* Each year Urban Boatbuilders takes on up to ten young people to become boatbuilding apprentices. Many of our apprentices come from the juvenile justice system or other troubled circumstances. By focusing on developing vocational and leadership skills, we help put these young people back on the path toward a successful transition into adulthood.

Urban boatbuilders also invites the public to contact us about supporting the program by purchasing one of our high quality hand-crafted boats.

### *Contact:*

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