



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URBAN BOATBUILDERS – MINNESOTA FINALIST IN NATIONAL OPUS GROUP FUNDING COMPETITION

Saint Paul, MN, March 31st 2015 – Urban Boatbuilders (UBB), a non-profit youth-development organization is a finalist for the Gerry Rauenhorst Building Community Award from the Minnesota-based development company, The Opus Group. The competition is intended to honor Opus founder and philanthropic leader, Gerry Rauenhorst. The contest winner will be awarded \$62,000 in honor of the sixty-two years that the company has existed.

After being selected as the finalist representing Minnesota, UBB joins eight other finalists from other states where The Opus Group operates. The winner will be determined by popular vote by members of the public casting their vote on the Opus Group website. The online ballot can be found at opus-group.com/BuildingCommunityAward. Voting will continue until April 17th and the winner will be announced on April 22nd.

UBB Executive Director, Marc Hosmer says “This is a great opportunity for Minnesotans to support an organization working to build the lives of youth in our state. We are excited for this opportunity and hope that folks will help us bring this funding to Minnesota by voting for Urban Boatbuilders.” The funding will be used to support UBB’s boatbuilding programs with youth.

Organization information:

2015 marks the 20th 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: Marc Hosmer, Executive Director
Address: 2288 University Avenue W. St. Paul, Minnesota 55114
Phone: 516-965-2948
Email: marc@urbanboatbuilders.org
Website: www.urbanboatbuilders.org