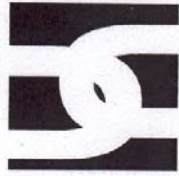


**University UNITED**  
*Metro Award*



**Presented to**

**Midtown Greenway Coalition**

Over the past thirteen years, the Midtown Greenway Coalition has overseen the successful development of the Midtown Greenway, one of the premiere urban bicycle and pedestrian trails in the country. The Coalition has also worked to create a framework and vision for development of the adjacent properties and surrounding community to maximize the value of the public infrastructure investment, and is advocating for the introduction of a streetcar in the corridor. Phase III of the Greenway development will bring the trail east to the Mississippi River in 2006.

The Coalition has long envisioned the Greenway extending into St. Paul along the Canadian Pacific Railroad corridor. In 2005, the first major steps toward achieving that goal have been taken with help from the Midway TMO, area bike advocates, and the City of St. Paul Department of Public Works. The City has secured federal and local funds for construction of the Ayd Mill Road segment of the trail. This month, two additional phases that will close the gap between the Minneapolis border and Ayd Mill Road were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in a competitive process for federal funding. The Greenway will eventually connect both cities, create continuous trail connections from Stillwater to Chaska, and accommodate recreational walkers, cyclists, and roller-bladers, as well as bicycle commuters traveling at high speeds.

The Midtown Greenway is both an amenity and a critical piece of infrastructure that will benefit the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the entire region for decades to come.

For all of these reasons, University UNITED honors the Midtown Greenway Coalition for forging closer ties, both physical and social, between the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

**University UNITED**  
**2005 Annual Awards Program**  
December 19, 2005

The University UNITED Annual Awards are presented to projects that have been built during the prior year that meet the guidelines of transit-oriented development and enhance the quality of life along the University Avenue corridor.



*Awards Panel:*

**Richard Fischer**, President, St. Paul Chapter, American Institute of Architects  
**Tim Griffin**, Director of the St. Paul on the Mississippi Design Center  
**Marilyn Porter**, Assembly of Architects  
**Sam Riesgraf**, Kraus-Anderson Construction and University UNITED Board Treasurer  
**Jill Henricksen**, Greater Frogtown CDC and University UNITED Board Vice-Chair

*Awards Program supported by a generous contribution from **Zimmerman Realty***

## **2005 Project of the Year**

### **Western Bank, 663 University Avenue**

The new Western Bank headquarters building at 663 University Avenue was designed by Michael Kraft of HTG Architects, and constructed by Flannery Construction. This 20,000 square-foot, two-story structure replaces an earlier single-story building on the site. It is built up to the street on the corner of St. Albans and University, and references the older stately buildings nearby. Architecturally, the structure is classically elegant, but innovative with its use of exterior building materials.

The building creates a strong urban presence by extending as far as possible along University Avenue, allowing the drive-up banking and parking to be contained at the rear of the site. The only public entrance is oriented toward the Avenue. The exterior façade is developed on all four sides, with varying heights and an eclectic mix of materials, adding to the vitality of the street presence. Raised corners with two-story glass storefronts accentuate both the street corner and the building entrance. Windows are carefully designed to reduce building scale and maximize interaction between inside and out. At night the building glows with a combination of decorative and subtle light fixtures that provide security and dramatic lighting effects. The interior of the building has spacious and inviting lobbies and meeting spaces.

Western Bank is an independent bank serving the community since 1915. Their commitment to their staff is reflected in the second floor outdoor patio atop the drive-through canopy, and fitness/wellness room and shower facilities. Visitors and employees are encouraged to use alternative transportation. Bicycle racks are provided and showers are available for staff. There are even accommodations to recharge employees' Segway transports.

Western Bank's new building is serving as both a model and a catalyst for future development on the Avenue.

## **2005 "Uni Award" Winners**

### **Cornelia House and Coventry Chapel at Episcopal Homes, 1840 University Avenue**

Cornelia House and Coventry Chapel complete the Episcopal Homes continuing care campus in the Midway. At the east end of the new buildings is an enclosed link to Seabury and at the west end is a link to Episcopal Church Home and Iris Park Commons. Together, these four facilities provide a continuum of housing options and prices for area seniors. The complex enables people who have lived in the Midway area an opportunity to stay within their community. The overall campus design beautifully combines attractive higher density residential buildings and public spaces.

The Episcopal Homes Campus represents an historic turning point for University Avenue as it was the first new housing built on the corridor in 75 years. Its architectural and programmatic success has greatly influenced public perception of the corridor and subsequent residential development. The architectural firm for Cornelia House and Coventry Chapel was Trossen Wright, and the contractor was CBS Construction.

### **Chimney Mosaic Project at Lao Market, 315 University Avenue**

Sculptor Angela Carlson created a glass mosaic mural on a 65-foot chimney at the Lao Market, 315 University Avenue. The mural features a "stream" of blue tiles flowing down the chimney, bordered by such evocative words as "spilling over," "creativity," "diversity," and "color." The imagery and text appear to pour from the chimney onto the surrounding sidewalk. Integrating visual motifs and imagery found in traditional Hmong designs and patterns, the artist designed a work that responds to its site and adds a dramatic visual element to University Avenue.

The project was funded by FORECAST Public Artworks, through a grant from the Jerome Foundation, as part of its ten-year initiative to add public art along University Avenue. FORECAST, a 2003 "Uni" winner, is a 27-year old nonprofit organization located on University Avenue, and is nationally known as the publisher of the Journal Public Art Review.

### **University Enterprises Laboratories, 1000 Westgate Drive**

Though blocks off University Avenue in the Westgate Industrial Park, the awards jury chose to honor this project because of its architectural excellence and its potentially significant impact on future land uses along the Avenue. The University Enterprises Laboratories (UEL) converted a 125,000 square foot warehouse into a state-of-the-art biosciences research incubator.

The UEL is a non-profit organization formed to provide early-stage life sciences companies with the tools necessary to conduct innovative research. The design challenge for the Architectural Alliance was to provide ready-made labs and services that could adapt to a wide variety of research needs at a reasonable cost. After two years of research, they articulated that challenge with the idea of a "laboratory hotel". The architects emphasized transparency and openness, featuring a dramatic glass canopy on the exterior, and an interior garden cutting through the laboratory work spaces. The building has state-of-the-art research facilities, and its day-lit gardens promote collegial interaction within a structure that captures the spirit and energy of innovation.