

GUSTAFSON GUTHRIE NICHOL

For immediate release:

GUSTAFSON GUTHRIE NICHOL ANNOUNCES THE AWARD OF LEED-NC PLATINUM FOR THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION CAMPUS

A NEW CAMPUS THAT INTEGRATES THE NATIVE LANDSCAPE WITH THE CITY GRID IN
SEATTLE'S UPTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD



Photo By Timothy Hursley

SEATTLE (October 17, 2011) Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN) is pleased to announce the award of LEED-NC (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for New Construction) Platinum certification from the United States Green Building Council for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation campus. GGN served as the landscape architects for the foundation's campus, which is now the largest LEED-NC Platinum project in the world for a non-profit foundation. GGN worked closely with an exceptional team of professionals lead by architects NBBJ.

In a thorough effort by all involved, the Gates Foundation Campus incorporates the native landscape, local materials, natural processes, and an integrated sustainable system that includes: the harvesting of rainwater, reducing potable water consumption, maximizing solar energy use, and minimizing energy use. This amalgamated approach to sustainability and efficiency is anticipated to pay for itself within 30 years. Phase one of the campus opened in May of 2011.

The campus landscape is designed to complement its urban location in Seattle's dense Uptown neighborhood. It replaces an asphalt parking lot and creates an outdoor work environment that blends in with the serene character of Seattle's natural landscape. The

overall concept for the landscape was inspired by the site's unique natural history and responded to the urban framework that now overlays the site and anchors the Foundation in its unique neighborhood. "The materials and functions of the landscape are informed by the site's distinct natural history, as a dark-watered bog in a plateau meadow that absorbed and filtered rainwater," said GGN Design Partner, Shannon Nichol of the campus's reed and cattail planted pools, green-roofs, and natural filtration system. "The environmental qualities of the campus landscape are the natural outcome of designing for the Foundation's strong philosophy of 'local roots and global vision'."

Water conservation is an important principle of the project: enhancing the local watershed by restoring habitat, improving stormwater management, and reducing the demand for potable water. In order to minimize (and in years, eliminate) the use of potable water in the landscape, the owner and design team developed and implemented a rainwater harvesting system that is the first of its kind in Washington State. A one-million-gallon rainwater storage tank lies beneath the campus and stores water for year-round re-use. Two-acres of living roof absorb a significant amount of rainwater, while the remaining hardscape runoff is collected in the rainwater storage tank, filtered and returned for use in reflecting pools, modest irrigation demands, and basic plumbing. These systems, along with efficient plumbing fixtures, reduce the campus's potable water use by nearly 80 percent, saving approximately two million gallons of potable water per year.

Some of the primary criteria for LEED certification are the local sourcing of materials, and efficient project-waste-management practices which when incorporated increase overall benefits. The award of LEED Platinum to the Gates Foundation Campus is the result of a fully integrated team of designers, engineers, and contractors who all shared a common goal to build the right building for foundation staff to do their best work. The sustainable campus was a natural result of the foundation's overall philosophy, keeping in line with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's good stewardship of the neighborhood and the environment. The award is shared with the participating organizations:

NBBJ: Architect / Interiors & Workplace / Lighting / Environmental Graphics
Gustafson Guthrie Nichol: Landscape Architect
Sellen: General Contractor
Seneca Group: Development Manager
Arup: SMEP (Structural Mechanical Electrical & Plumbing); AV/Acoustics & IT
KPFF: Civil & Structural Engineer
AMA Alexi Marmot Associates Ltd.: Workplace Consultant
Hammer Design Associates Inc.: Food Service
Judith Heerwagen: Workplace Consultant
HKA Elevator: Vertical Transportation
Walker Parking: Parking
Morrison-Hershfield: Waterproofing
RWDI: Wind Solutions
McKinstry: Mechanical Contractor
Cochran, Inc.: Electrical Contractor
Teufel Landscape: Landscape Contractor
TechPMgroup: Technology Consultant

About Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN)

Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN) is a landscape architecture practice based in Seattle, Washington. Founded by partners Kathryn Gustafson, Jennifer Guthrie, and Shannon Nichol,

GGN works throughout the Americas and Asia. Its projects are developed by designers with professional backgrounds in landscape, architecture, engineering, graphics, ecology, and other sciences, and express the sculptural qualities of contextual landscape.

GGN offers special experience in designing high-use landscapes in complex, urban contexts. GGN's landscapes are widely varied in type and scale, but they share qualities as healthy settings for diverse and ever-changing activities. The landform of each space is carefully shaped to feel serenely grounded in its context and comfortable at all times – whether bustling with crowds, offering moments of contemplation, or doing both at once.

GGN's recent project awards include the prestigious Cooper Hewitt 2011 National Design Award for Landscape Architecture, multiple ASLA National Design Excellence Awards, Tucker Architectural Awards, and AIA/ASLA Honor and Merit awards for Design. GGN's prominent projects include the Lurie Garden of Millennium Park in Chicago, the Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, and the new Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Campus in Seattle.

For more information on Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, please visit www.ggnltd.com.

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Media Contact:

Jeffrey Walkowiak or Ozgur Gungor

Blue Medium

E: Jeffrey@bluemedium.com or

Ozgur@bluemedium.com

T: +1 (212) 675-1800

Liz Martini

Gustafson Guthrie Nichol

E: lizm@ggnltd.com

T: +1 (206) 903-6802 x 302