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Wisconsin DSPS Helps Honor State Architects

Gov. Evers Proclaims October as Architecture Awareness Month in Wisconsin

MADISON- The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) and Secretary-designee Dan Hereth honored state architects Tuesday, presenting a proclamation from Governor Tony Evers to American Institute of Architects (AIA) Wisconsin Executive Director Lisa Kennedy.

The plaque officially proclaims October 2023 ‘Architecture Awareness Month’ in Wisconsin, recognizing architecture as fundamental to the well-being and success of society and the design industry as an economic driver in Wisconsin.

“I was glad to proclaim October Architecture Awareness Month to join the American Institute of Architects, firms, and organizations across the state in celebrating the good work of the architecture and design community. I encourage folks across the state to join in celebrating this month through AIA Wisconsin’s ARCHtoberfest events,” Governor Evers stated.

Architecture Awareness Month, branded ARCHtoberfest by AIA Wisconsin, will provide Wisconsin residents with opportunities to explore, appreciate, and engage with the built environment around them. The proclamation highlights the importance of educating the public on the value of the profession of architecture, as well as architecture’s economic, environmental, and cultural impacts.

“Architecture is the backdrop of our lives. We all live, work, and play in built spaces, yet few people have direct contact with the architects behind these environments. Our goal is to raise awareness of the work of architects in Wisconsin and to inspire a more diverse next generation in the architecture profession,” said Kennedy.

The proclamation was presented Tuesday following a tour of the UW-Madison Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center. The tour provided representatives of AIA Wisconsin, the Department of Safety and Professional Services, the Governor’s Office, and the Department of Health Services with an inside look at the structure’s design, including elements centered on inclusivity, wellness, and sustainability.

“This facility and its design represent priorities of the Evers Administration and our department,” said Hereth. “As the state agency that licenses Wisconsin architects, we’re glad to see AIA Wisconsin and the architecture industry celebrating some of those same priorities as they kick off Archtoberfest.”

“Most notably, the design revolves around creating a welcoming and inspiring place for everyone to [be well](#). From the Wellness Suite to the open, four-story fitness area, to the sport simulators, there truly is a space for everyone on campus and in the community. This, along with more traditional sustainable features, will help keep the Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center an integral component in campus health & wellness for many years to come,” said Adam Bastjan, AIA of Kahler Slater, one of the architectural firms involved in the design and creation of the facility.

“Incorporating sustainability in the design process enables broader engagement with and responsiveness to the users of the facilities and grounds, while demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship as an institution,” said Missy Nergard, Director of the Office of Sustainability at UW-Madison and chair of the State Council on Building Sustainability. “In the context of the Bakke Center, sustainability features allowed us to focus on the needs of students in terms of both physical and mental health, which contributes to their ability to learn and be successful.”

Throughout the month of October, various ARCHtoberfest events and activities will take place to promote architectural awareness and education. Find a full list of ARCHtoberfest events and more details here: [ARCHtoberfest Events](#).

Find the Architecture Awareness Month Proclamation from Gov. Evers [here](#).

About DSPS:

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

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