

NOMA'S-DETROIT CHAPTER HONORS PARTICIPANTS IN HAMILTON ANDERSON ASSOCIATES / HABITAT COMPANY'S HIGH SCHOOL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17 – Detroit, MI

On June 19, 2013, NOMA-Detroit will hold its June general membership meeting. NOMA-Detroit is a chapter of The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), a 501-C(6) non-profit organization whose mission is to champion diversity within the design professions by promoting the excellence, community engagement, and professional development of its members. This will be the second event of a new NOMA-Detroit initiative called Professional Open Houses (POH). The inaugural POH event was held in May at ME Designs, LLC.

The POH Program will help to achieve NOMA-Detroit's mission which is to be the voice, the vehicle for advancement and resource for minorities in and affected by the practice of architecture in the Detroit Metropolitan area and southeast Michigan. POH Program events seek to bring together minority architectural firms, professionals, architectural interns, pre-college level students, and majority architectural offices to display their accomplishments, interact, mentor and network at one event. Intern Development Program (IDP) credits may be available for interns attending these events in the future. More information on future NOMA-Detroit events can be found at www.nomadetroit.org.

The June General Membership meeting will be held in Tech Town at Centric Design Studios, 440 Burroughs Street from 5:30pm – 8pm. In addition to conducting NOMA-Detroit's general business, high school students who participated in a specially designed after-school program will be honored. The student centered program is sponsored by The Habitat Company and Hamilton Anderson Associates under the direction of the Detroit Housing Commission (DHC). With recruiting help from Wayne State University's Volunteer Administrators and Coaches (VAC) Training Program, a majority of students are residents of two DHC housing developments: Brewster Homes and Sojourner Truth Homes.

Entitled the DHC Mentoring Program, students over the course of 9 weeks were introduced to careers in architecture at Hamilton Anderson Associates offices in Detroit. More specifically, they were asked to create their own vision of what should replace Douglass Homes. Students were taught Sketch Up, a computer-aided-design software tool, in order to create 3 dimensional CAD models illustrating their design vision.

On June 19th, students will have an opportunity to share their designs with other members of the minority architectural community as well as be rewarded for their hard work. Participants will receive a certificate of completion, a portfolio containing color prints of their work, a list of members of NOMA-Detroit and a letter of recommendation for use in application to a local design school or entry level job. In addition, the DHC has committed to award computers to each student with good attendance records. Representatives from three local design schools will be present: the University of Detroit-Mercy, the University of Michigan and Lawrence Technological University. Attendees will also participate in a tour of Centric Design Studios, a Detroit based architecture and graphic design firm created by three members of NOMA-Detroit, including past NOMA-Detroit President Sandra Little.

The Habitat Company and Hamilton Anderson Associates are sponsoring the program as part of a unique method for meeting their US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 3 obligations. The Section 3 program requires that recipients of certain HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent possible, provide job training, employment, and contract opportunities for low or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods.

With the completion of the program, The Habitat Company and Hamilton Anderson Associates will begin open registration for the next class. Interested students should contact Robert Saxon, Jr. at rsaxonjr@sbcglobal.net for registration forms.

Hamilton Anderson Associates is a multi-disciplinary design firm dedicated to improving the built environment through creative, contemporary design. Co-Founded by Kent Anderson and NOMA-Detroit past president Rainy Hamilton, the firm combines architecture, landscape architecture, planning, urban design, strategic planning, interior design, and graphic design to create compelling, sustainable projects that provide a lasting and positive impact.

The Habitat Company is a Chicago-based property development and management company with a presence in Southeastern Michigan for over 40 years. They are dedicated to making a positive impact on the diverse communities with which they work and are an innovative leader in the development and management of a broad range of real estate.

VAC Training is a collaborative effort between, the Detroit Recreation Department (DRD), the Youth Sports and Recreation Commission (YSRC now known as the Youth Development Commission - YDC), and the Sports Administration Department at Wayne State University (WSU). Their goal is to provide quality year-round training opportunities for adult volunteers, coaches, and sport administrators who participate in and/or supervise youth athletic programs in Detroit, and the Metropolitan Area. With additional funding from the DHC, VAC Training has been able to target their programs to specific DHC housing developments: the Village of Parkside, Woodbridge Estates, Smith Homes, and the Brewster Homes.