

Region's top projects honored by DJC

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A \$57 million project to create a new habitat for Asian elephants at the **Oregon Zoo** was named the **Project of the Year** during the Daily Journal of Commerce's 2016 **TopProjects** event, held Thursday at the Oregon Convention Center.

This year's Top Projects awards honored the most outstanding public and private buildings, renovations, and transportation and infrastructure projects completed in Oregon and Southwest Washington during 2015. More than 95 projects, with a total value of nearly \$1.5 billion, were evaluated by a panel of nine judges involved in the local building industry.

The Oregon Zoo's **Elephant Lands** earned top scores from the judges in large part for the project's innovative engineering, design and construction that resulted in a facility being heralded as the next generation in creating healthier, more natural environments for elephants in captivity.

The project, which also won the public projects category, was submitted by **Lease Crutcher Lewis**; it led the construction portion of the project. Engineering was handled by **Equilibrium Engineers** and **PAE**. Project architecture was handled by **SRG Partnership** and **CLR Design**.

Twenty other projects also were recognized during the Top Projects event.

The **Pacific Northwest College of Art** took top honors in the renovation category. **Slabtown Market** claimed second place in the category, while **Hotel Eastlund** earned third place. **Hassalo on Eighth** was named the winner in the private buildings category, with **The Radiator** and the **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon** claiming second and third place, respectively. An honorable mention went to **Orchards at Orengo**.

Following Elephant Lands in the public projects category was the **Oregon State University Student Experience Center** in second place. Sharing third place honors were the **Central Oregon Community College** Residence Hall, **Fire Station 76** and the carpet replacement at **Portland International Airport**.

The **Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail – East Segment** won the transportation category. A rehabilitation of the **Chitwood Covered Bridge** was named the runner-up. Third place was presented to the Southwest Multnomah Boulevard Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements project, while the Northwest Friberg Street and Northeast Goodwin Road Improvements project received an honorable mention.

The **North Fork Floating Surface Collector** project walked away with first place in the infrastructure category, while the **Colorado Dam Safe Passage** project and the 2015 **Main Canal Flume Replacement and Canal Improvements** project placed second and third, respectively. **The Mouth of the Columbia River North Jetty Critical Repairs** project received an honorable mention.

A renovation of the **Stadium Fred Meyer** project, submitted by **Mackenzie**, won the Editor's Choice award. The project earned high scores from judges, who called it a complex renovation that offered an "amazing" alternative to the traditional "urban big box."

All of the winning projects were profiled in the DJC TopProjects magazine, which is being mailed to DJC subscribers. Photos of the event will appear in the Monday, May 9 issue of the DJC newspaper.