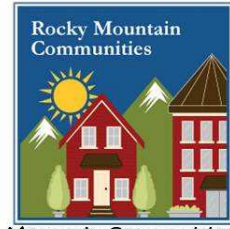




Playhouse Exhibit at
Children's Museum of Denver
July 15-26, 2009
Gala & Auction, July 25, 2009
6:30 - 9:00 pm



Rocky Mountain Communities
225 E. 16th Ave, Suite 1060
Denver, CO 80203
RockyMountainCommunities.org

Images available upon request.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Leading Local Architects Join Builders to Create One-of-a-Kind Children's Playhouses –
Exhibit, Gala at Children's Museum of Denver – July 15 – 26, 2009**

Denver, CO – On July 15th – 26th, five children's playhouses, each one-of-a-kind and created with reusable and sustainable materials, will be on display in the outdoor plaza at Children's Museum of Denver. For no admittance fee, the playhouses will be available for viewing and interactive fun. The playhouse theme for 2009 is *Work and Play*. The playhouses will be auctioned off at a Gala and Auction at the conclusion of the exhibit.

Early this year, Rocky Mountain Communities approached five top Colorado architects, each known for their commitment to affordable housing and asked that they each design a child's playhouse. The architects readily agreed to tackle the project and quickly recruited their Design/Build "Dream Team".

The challenge presented to each supremely skilled and creative Design/Build Team is to incorporate aspects of both work and play in their playhouse design and to build with reusable and sustainable materials. Each team, donating hours and hours of time and a wealth of resources, are creating not-to-be-missed playhouses that will provide youngsters with hours of interactive fun.

Why are architects, builders, contractors and corporate sponsors joining together in support to design and build five unique houses that no one will live in?

“The beauty of the Playhouse Project – and the reason we wanted to participate – is its power to bring home important facts to a wider audience: that affordable housing can be attractive, it can increase property values, it can ease traffic, it can strengthen our communities. Most importantly, seeing children learning through playing with these playhouses is a reminder that from a good home, all things are possible.”

-Ron Faleide, AIA, of Faleide Architecture Studio PC
Design/Build Team Leader and Sponsor

Through this project, Rocky Mountain Communities hopes to provide the community with additional information about affordable housing. As providers of affordable housing, Rocky Mountain Communities believes that everyone deserves a decent and affordable place to live, work and PLAY. President and CEO Doug Smith explains, “Not only will guests have a great time exploring the houses, but we hope they will come away with a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding affordable housing. We’ve been enormously pleased by the outpouring of support from our Design/Build Team Sponsors and Event Sponsors and are sure that the public will be equally enthusiastic about the project.”

Gala and Playhouse Auction – July 25, 6:30 – 9:00 pm

In addition to a free exhibition, the playhouses will be available for purchase at a Gala Auction on July 25, 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the Children’s Museum. If you would like to attend the Gala, please call Rocky Mountain Communities at 303-863-8651 ext. 109 or log onto RockyMountainBeommunities.org. Funds raised will help support the work of Rocky Mountain Communities. Tickets for the event must be purchased in advance.

Playhouse Project Design/Build Teams and Sponsors are:

Farmhouse Playhouse: Humphries Poli Architects, P.C. and Milender White Construction Co.
Firehouse Playhouse: Van Tilburg, Banvard, & Soderbergh, AIA (VTBS) and Krische Construction
Artists Studio Playhouse: Van Meter, Williams, Pollack, LLC and Turner Construction
Chia House: Faleide Architectural Studio P.C. and Mallory Construction
Space Station Playhouse: Odell Architects, P.C., Namaste Solar, and Shaw Construction

The Playhouse Project Sponsors are:

Children’s Museum of Denver, Bank of the West, UMB Bank, The IMA Financial Group, Inc., and Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

*As a non-profit organization, Rocky Mountain Communities’ mission is to **develop, own and manage affordable housing and provide support services to help individuals succeed in life.** Since 1992, RMC has provided affordable housing and program services to more than 10,000 families.*

An expanding number of working individuals and families cannot afford to pay rent or are severely burdened by rental costs. The families that RMC serves drive our buses, care for our sick and elderly, teach our children, fight fires and keep us safe on the streets. More than 100,000 affordable housing units are needed to meet current demand for low- and moderate-income families in Colorado according to the Colorado Division of Housing.

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