



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

News Release

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SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION'S RENOVATION OF THE HISTORIC HOTEL CHURCHILL RECOGNIZED AS REHABILITATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR

San Diego Housing Federation honors Hotel Churchill with prestigious Ruby Award

SAN DIEGO, CA — The San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) renovation of the historic [Hotel Churchill](#) to create permanent housing with supportive services for 72 homeless San Diegans received the prestigious Ruby Award as the Housing Project of the Year for Rehabilitation from the San Diego Housing Federation.

SDHC Vice Chair Dorothy Surdi and Commissioners Margaret Davis and Kellee Hubbard accepted the award, which was presented by San Diego City Councilmember Chris Ward, who represents Council District 3, where Hotel Churchill is located in Downtown San Diego.

“We take pride in receiving this recognition for bringing new life to the Hotel Churchill, which is also providing opportunities for homeless San Diegans to leave the streets behind and begin to rebuild their lives,” said SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry, who also attended the awards ceremony.

SDHC, working with its nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners (HDP), created 72 affordable rental studio apartments at Hotel Churchill for homeless San Diegans – 56 units for homeless Veterans, 8 units for transitional age youth ages 18-25, and 8 units for adults exiting the corrections system.

The rental studios at Hotel Churchill will remain affordable for 55 years for residents with incomes up to 60 percent of San Diego's Area Median Income (AMI), approximately \$35,700 a year for one person. For an additional 10 years, the units will be affordable for San Diegans with incomes up to 80 percent of AMI, approximately \$47,600 a year.

Originally built in 1914, Hotel Churchill, located at 827 C Street in Downtown San Diego, was designated a local historical landmark by the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board on November 21, 2003. This designation required the restoration of the building façade. However, the seventh floor, which was not a part of the original building, was found to be structurally unsafe. It was removed and replaced with a new seventh floor, which has been built to current building code standards.

The renovation also included a voluntary state-of-the-art seismic upgrade – the installation of four fluid viscous dampers. They are large, piston-like devices that act similarly to shock absorbers in the event of an earthquake, dissipating seismic energy. This is the first time viscous dampers have been used in a historical renovation in the city of San Diego.

Formerly homeless Veterans residing at Hotel Churchill receive supportive services on-site from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), marking the first time in San Diego County that the VA San Diego Healthcare System has dedicated a full-time clinical social worker to operate outside of their main office.

The 16 non-Veteran residents at Hotel Churchill also receive on-site supportive services: Pathways Community Services – Catalyst serves the transitional age youth; and Mental Health Systems – Center STAR Assertive Community Treatment serves the adults exiting the corrections system.

Supportive services for the non-Veteran residents are funded by the State Mental Health Services Act, which is administered by the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services Division.

The renovation of Hotel Churchill is one of the key accomplishments of [HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO](#), SDHC’s landmark Homelessness Action Plan, which launched on November 12, 2014.

This is the second award for the Hotel Churchill renovation. On May 18, 2017, SDHC received the 2017 Adaptive Reuse Award from the Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO), recognizing “those whose vision, dedication and determination in preserving San Diego’s heritage has provided a powerful sense of place for all San Diegans.”

The Ruby Awards honor “excellence in affordable housing and community development, highlighting the accomplishments of people, agencies and developments that work to ensure all San Diegans, regardless of income, have a safe, stable place they can afford to call home.”

Two SDHC partnerships also received 2017 Ruby Awards:

- San Diego County Supervisors Greg Cox and Ron Roberts and the County of San Diego received the CSH Supportive Housing Award for [Project One For All](#), a partnership program to provide housing opportunities combined with supportive services for 1,250 homeless San Diegans with serious mental health issues countywide. SDHC has committed 733 Federal rental housing vouchers to Project One For All.
- The City of San Diego received the Outstanding Government Agency Award for its Density Bonus Program (Affordable Homes Bonus Program). The Density Bonus Program provides increased residential density to developers who guarantee that a portion of their residential development will be available to moderate-income, low-income, very low-income, or senior households. SDHC monitors developers to make sure they comply with the City’s program requirements.

The San Diego Housing Federation is a coalition of affordable housing developers, advocates and organizations that promote the creation of affordable housing focused on lower-income families.

For more information about SDHC, visit www.sdhc.org.

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