



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PHIUS Receives Richard King Mellon Foundation Grant to Support Eighth Annual North American Passive House Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa.**

*A win-win for passive building and Southwestern Pennsylvania*

**Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 13, 2013** – Thanks to the generosity and vision of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Eighth Annual North American Passive House Conference promises to be the largest and most important to date, bringing passive building leaders and exhibitors from around the globe, and showcasing the Pittsburgh region’s vibrant green building community and industries.

“We are extremely gratified that the Richard King Mellon Foundation – one of the nation’s most respected philanthropic organizations – has chosen to support our annual conference,” said Katrin Klingenberg, PHIUS Executive Director. “Pittsburgh is already the home of several exciting affordable passive building projects, and with the Foundation’s help, we are committed to building on that momentum by making Pittsburgh the best conference yet.”

The grant of \$35,000 will help fund planning and execution of the three-day event, which is expected to draw 500 architects, energy consultants, policy makers, affordable housing professionals, construction professionals, engineers and academics. In addition, dozens of high-performance building component manufacturers will present cutting-edge products at the passive building trade show.

The event will be held at the Omni William Penn hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. It will include a day of intensive workshops, an opening reception/poster session, two days of content-rich technical, business and policy tracks, and an optional tour of local passive building projects.

For more information on the conference, visit [www.passivehouse.us/phc2013](http://www.passivehouse.us/phc2013)

### **About the Richard King Mellon Foundation:**

For more than 60 years the [Richard King Mellon Foundation](http://www.rkmf.org) has invested in the competitive future and quality of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and in the protection, preservation, and restoration of America’s environmental heritage. The Foundation was created in 1947 by Richard King Mellon (1899 – 1970), president and chairman of Mellon Bank, a conservationist and leading figure in the financial and civic life of Pennsylvania. As a lifelong outdoorsman and sportsman, he, along with his wife, Constance Prosser Mellon, had an equally strong

commitment to preserving wildlife habitat and the natural world. Mrs. Mellon served as chair of the Foundation from 1947 until her death in 1980.

With assets over \$1.9 billion at December 31, 2010, the Richard King Mellon Foundation has built on the vision of these founders. The Foundation's current giving priorities primarily serve Southwestern Pennsylvania with a program focus on Regional Economic Development and Conservation, along with Education and Human Services and Nonprofit Capacity Building.

### **About PHIUS**

PHIUS is a 501(c)3 organization committed to making high-performance passive building the mainstream market standard. PHIUS is transforming the building sector by developing and promoting North American specific standards, practices and certifications for buildings, professionals and products to create structures that are durable, comfortable, healthy and super energy efficient.

Founded in 2007, PHIUS has trained more than 1,000 architects, engineers, energy consultants, energy raters, and builders. It also is the leading passive building research and information provider in North America. PHIUS has also established strategic relationships with key government, educational, corporate, and affordable housing organizations including the U.S. DOE, RESNET, Carnegie Mellon University, Parsons College, University of Oregon, Habitat for Humanity, Rocky Mountain Institute and others.

Through its PHAUS program – a membership/chapter organization, PHIUS is building a robust support network of local regional passive building communities. PHAUS has 300+ members, 13 regional chapters, and dozens of corporate sponsors—and the numbers are growing. PHAUS provides weekly electronic industry updates to members, frequent educational webinars, presents to local organizations to raise awareness, and provides networking opportunities for passive building professionals and manufacturers.