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PHIUS certifies innovative affordable housing project in Pittsburgh

Uptown Lofts on Fifth receives passive house certification, and provides comfortable, energy efficient supported housing

Chicago—March 9, 2015— Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) today announced that Uptown Lofts on Fifth, developed by Pittsburgh’s Action-Housing, has received PHIUS+ Certification—validating that the 24-unit project meets a rigorous performance standard that reduces energy consumption for heating and cooling by 60-80 percent compared to conventional design.

“Passive building design dramatically reduces operating costs, provides superb indoor air-quality and comfort, and produces extremely resilient structures,” said PHIUS Executive Director Katrin Klingenberg. “That’s why passive building and affordable housing are a perfect match, and why we’re seeing more and more multi-unit affordable passive projects in Pennsylvania and around the nation.”

Uptown Lofts on Fifth is among the first new construction in the city’s Uptown neighborhood in decades. Uptown Lofts on Fifth, comprised of two buildings, will provide housing for 47 households including 24 young people who have aged out of the foster-care system, a significantly vulnerable population.

“ACTION–Housing is very excited to open 47 units of affordable housing in the Uptown Neighborhood of Pittsburgh,” said Larry Swanson, ACTION-Housing’s executive director. “Located between downtown and Oakland, along one of the City’s primary public transportation routes, it’s a great location for young adults aged from Foster Care who are building self-sufficient lives.”

Working with the National Equity Fund, BNY Mellon provided the equity for the Low Income Housing Tax Credits as well as construction financing. Additional support was provided by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the Federal Home Loan Bank and Northwest Savings Bank, as well as the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.



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 1,800 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 organizations like the Richard King Mellon Foundation, which helped fund PHIUS' annual conference held in Pittsburgh In 2013. Other partnerships include the U.S. Department of Energy, RESNET, Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture, Parsons The New School for Design, University of Oregon, Habitat for Humanity, Rocky Mountain Institute and many others.

Through its PHAUS program – a membership/chapter organization, PHIUS is building a robust national alliance of local passive building communities. PHAUS has hundreds of members, 20 regional chapters, and dozens of corporate sponsors—and the numbers are growing.

About ACTION-Housing, Inc.

ACTION-Housing is a 58 year old regional housing organization that designs and operates interventions that increase the affordability of housing for people of modest incomes. This work includes development and management of multi-family and single-family housing and community based projects, mortgage counseling, social service programs that foster independent living, and weatherization assistance programs. Services are designed to help the region's most vulnerable populations including older adults; people who are homeless or facing homelessness; people with disabilities; families and individuals with moderate incomes; homeowners facing foreclosure; veterans; and young people who have aged out of the foster care system.

Visit actionhousing.org to learn more.

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