



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**URA RECEIVES TWO EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS  
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

PITTSBURGH, PA (September 29, 2016) - The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) received two Silver Excellence in Economic Development Awards from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC): *Financing our Future: 2015 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Report* won in the Special Purpose Print Brochure category and South Side Works won in the Neighborhood Development category.

The honors were presented at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, September 27, during the IEDC Annual Conference, which was held September 25-28, in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I commend the staff of the URA for their commitment to equitable development, and for working to ensure that everyone benefits for our city's growth," said Kevin Acklin, URA board chair and Mayor Peduto's chief of staff.

[\*Financing our Future: 2015 Tax Increment Financing \(TIF\) Report\*](#) is the first in an annual publication series that promotes TIF as a key economic development tool in the City of Pittsburgh. The purpose of the publication series is to enhance TIF comprehension for local taxing body leadership, taxpayers, and public and philanthropic funders through a simple and concise explanation of the impact of the 29 active and completed TIF districts in the City of Pittsburgh. In an era of growing scrutiny over how local public resources are invested, the report emphasizes the economic returns that the public receives as investors in public infrastructure in their communities.

The South Side Works project highlighted the efforts the URA took to transform the former LTV Steel Mill which, after 132 years of continuous operation, shuttered due to the precipitous decline of an industry that once defined the regional economy. The URA acquired the 123-acre riverfront brownfield in 1993, channeling \$128 million toward environmental remediation, site preparation and public infrastructure that queued up the site for the next wave of the Pittsburgh economy.

Through 2016, the URA has leveraged over \$500 million in private capital by investing in a new street grid, public parks, recreational riverfront trails, structured parking, and a vital multimodal bridge connection. The development and execution of a community-driven master plan transformed South Side Works into a regional center for private investment, job creation and tax generation that reclaimed the riverfront and blended the site with the existing urban fabric.

"Both awards reinforce the impact we can make locally toward creating jobs and growing our tax base by investing in infrastructure," said Robert Rubinstein, URA acting executive director.

"On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee, congratulations to URA. Not only did they work to provide a necessary service to their community; but also, their participation in the awards program sheds light on their stellar projects which other communities can now use as

a benchmark,” said Barry Matherly, CEcD, FM, IEDC 2016 board chair, president and CEO of the Greater Richmond Partnership.

The IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban and rural communities.

“The awards process is a thorough, non-biased and multi-layered process. These are extraordinary accomplishments for all winners, and an overall great effort by all participants. We look forward to next year's awards competition,” Matherly said.

#### **About The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh**

The [Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh](#) (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base, and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing, and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.

#### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,700 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC's members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. [www.iedcONLINE.org](http://www.iedcONLINE.org).

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