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## Project Place Wins National Award

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The résumé for Project Place's GateHouse just got even better, with the addition of a national design award.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), with the

American Institute of Architects (AIA), gave Project Place's Washington Street headquarters a "Community Connection Award."

The award recognizes the community-based work housed in the building, said Marcie Laden, Project Place's director of

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PHOTO: ORBEO CEANNA

## Project Place

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development. GateHouse is a hub for services for people transitioning from homelessness, including housing, job training and education.

In addition, she said, the building's restaurant and meeting space draw the community. Laden added that the design, which features open space and many windows, furthers GateHouse's feeling of accessibility to the surrounding neighborhood.

"We are a very visible part of the community, and the building reflects that," Laden said.

Opened in 2007 on a formerly vacant

lot, GateHouse has netted about six other honors for design or service.

GateHouse was one of four affordable housing projects to receive the HUD housing and design awards.

"These housing developments are truly transformational. They go beyond both form and function and are helping to revitalize their surrounding neighborhoods," HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said in a statement. "These winning designs show that affordable housing and good design can go hand in hand."

Laden said she thought the award would give the nonprofit "enhanced credibility" as it vies to secure funding and launch new initiatives.

"What we thought of as great in our small corner really is great on a national level," Laden said.