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South Central Regional Library receives prestigious national architecture award



LOUISVILLE (April 8, 2019) – Every year, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) partners with the American Library Association to honor the best in library architecture and design. The **AIA/ALA Library Building Award** is the only award that recognizes entire library structures and all aspects of their design, and the Louisville Free Public Library’s South Central Regional branch was one of six libraries nationally to receive the award for 2019.

Here is what the AIA had to say about South Central:

“With its angular forms and industrial materials, this library reflects human intervention in the natural world while celebrating its organic surroundings. Sitting in a 100-year-old forest in an area where clear cutting for development has long been the custom, the project harnesses sustainable design to create a flexible and responsive program.”

Since opening in July of 2017, the 40,000 square-foot South Central Regional Library has enhanced service for more than 160,000 people in south central Jefferson County, with new books and cutting-edge technology. The eco-friendly, LEED* Gold-certified facility houses more than 100,000 books and features two large community meeting rooms; several smaller rooms for studying, reading, and collaborating; and dedicated spaces for teens and children. An average of 18,400 people visit South Central each month and have checked out more than 550,000 books and other materials.

“Louisville deserves world-class libraries,” said Interim Library Director Lee Burchfield. “I am thrilled that what we have accomplished at South Central has been recognized in this way.”

The South Central Regional is also home to the COLLIDER artist-in-residence program. The COLLIDER hosts an array of artists and craftspeople from across the community – rotating monthly – including those working in visual arts, traditional crafts, music, dance, and digital art. Generous funding from Councilwoman Madonna Flood enabled the creation of the necessary space, artist equipment and materials, as well as a stipend for participating artists. The artist-in-residence program has made innovative and interactive arts education accessible to hundreds of adults, teens, children, and families in the community. To learn more about the COLLIDER, visit www.LFPL.org/Collider.

The South Central Regional Library design team included JRA Architects of Louisville, Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd. of Minneapolis, MKSK Studios of Louisville, and library staff.

If You Visit

The South Central Regional Library is located at 7300 Jefferson Boulevard. Hours of operation are: Sunday: 1–5 p.m., Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The library hosts a variety of free programs, classes, and events every month for adults and youth including weekly storytimes and monthly book discussion groups. Search the library’s online calendar at www.LFPL.org/events for upcoming program dates and times.

***About LEED**

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, an internationally recognized green building certification system providing third-party verification that a building was designed and built sustainably and with low environmental impact.

LEED certification takes into account all aspects of design, construction, and operation - from the building site, to construction materials, to how energy efficient the building is. The South Central Regional Library incorporates advanced “green” technologies and architectural design to save energy and minimize impact on the environment. Green features include geothermal heating and cooling, daylight harvesting interior lighting, environmentally-friendly furniture and flooring, and energy efficient windows and fixtures.

In 2009, the Newburg Library became Metro government’s first LEED-certified building. South Central is the most recent LEED-certified library, joining the Southwest, Fairdale, and Newburg branches.

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The Library – at the crossroads of knowledge and know-how. Visit www.LFPL.org to learn more.