

March 30, 2012

2011 Build Arizona Awards Committee
Arizona Chapter, Associated General Contractors
1825 W. Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Letter of Commendation for Achen-Gardner; Centennial Way Enhancement Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Arizona Centennial Commission is very pleased with the work that Achen-Gardner did on the Centennial Way (Washington Street) Enhancement Project. From the beginning, we knew that this would be an extremely aggressive project coupled with the initial design concepts being somewhat vague. Add to that the tremendous amount of stakeholder input required due to showcasing each of our 15 counties and 22 American Indian tribes. In addition, the eight major shade structures - each with its own Arizona theme - required extensive research, historians and state agencies to review and provide input.

Achen-Gardner was an integral part of this Design Build project from design to completion. This was a highly visible project that ran through the heart of state government agencies, which could have presented many logistical challenges. They met and exceeded every challenge of a difficult job and in particular they were complemented by the City of Phoenix for the best "well managed traffic control projects in town."

They attended every public meeting, every stakeholder discussion, every content meeting for the shade structures, and amazingly built consensus with all the stakeholders in a very short time frame. That is saying a lot when you consider they worked with 67+ agencies, organizations, counties and tribes. With the input from so many stakeholders, Achen-Gardner helped us shape the vision of where we were trying to go in taking a street project and using it to create a much better sense of place. In addition, they took the utmost care in researching and utilizing the most innovative materials and techniques for the 45+ displays and signage.

The collaboration of Achen-Gardner with so many stakeholders was amazing. Many thought it couldn't be done in such a short timeframe. However, everyone came on board and worked together to create a noteworthy thoroughfare leading to our state's Capitol from downtown Phoenix. Because of this opportunity to transform the Arizona Capitol Mall into a pedestrian-friendly showcase of Arizona, Centennial Way is much more than just a street enhancement project. It is a legacy that Arizonans will be proud of, serving as a destination point where people can visit and learn about the great state of Arizona.

It simply could not have been done without Achen-Gardner's expert level of care. They are worthy of an award.

Sincerely,



Karen Churchar
Executive Director

