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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Community Resources and Urban Land Institute Announce Unique Partnership to Build Capacity for Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Detroit Neighborhoods

October 3, 2016—Detroit, MI—Today, Michigan Community Resources (MCR) and Urban Land Institute (ULI) announced a unique joint program designed to build the capacity for Detroit community-based organizations to implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects.

MCR will award \$5,000 mini-grants to five non-profit community groups. The awards will provide funding for community-based organizations to implement green stormwater infrastructure practices that will reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and serve as demonstration projects that can educate residents and other community groups about the importance of water quality and stormwater management.

Urban Land Institute Michigan Council will provide each grantee with pro bono technical assistance from their network of professional civil engineers and landscape architects. ULI is also providing an additional \$2,000 to each grantee that will go towards signage, educational materials, and on-going maintenance of the projects.

Awardees include:

- **The Jefferson Chalmers Community Food System** plans to build a water catchment system to irrigate their cut flower farm.
- **Urban Neighborhood Initiatives** also plans to create a water catchment system, but on a commercial building as part of a broader GSI system that includes permeable paving, a bioswale, and a green wall.
- **Earthworks** will engage in research and development for an affordable, modular solar pump that will allow for the captured water to be used for irrigation in urban agricultural systems.
- **North Corktown Neighborhood Association** is developing a Four-Season Raingarden (from Detroit Future City's Field Guide) on a vacant lot.
- **Marygrove Community Association** will create a community rain garden with park-like amenities on a residential lot.

"We are very excited about this innovative program," said Jill Ferrari, Chief Executive Officer of Michigan Community Resources. "Our partnership with ULI allows us to deliver a level of service above and beyond that of a traditional mini-grant program. Leveraging professional

technical assistance and additional funding for education and maintenance will help us build the capacity of community groups to implement sustainable projects in their neighborhoods.”

“The Urban Land Institute is thrilled to be a part of this program,” said Shannon Sclafani, Director of ULI Michigan. “Not only does it provide our members with the unique opportunity to give back to the neighborhoods using their professional expertise, but it provides Detroit neighborhoods the opportunity to implement unique innovations in resilience, green infrastructure, and storm water management that we hope will be replicated throughout the city and elsewhere.”

Funding for this program is generously provided by the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation and the Urban Land Institute.

Once each project is completed, the partners will continue to work with the grantees to create customized educational materials that explains how each installation manages stormwater and improves water quality. Please visit MCR’s Neighborhood Exchange website (www.neighborhood-exchange.com) to learn more about the awardees and to track the progress of each of the projects.

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About Michigan Community Resources

The mission of Michigan Community Resources is to support and empower nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities, with an emphasis on community economic development, by providing pro bono legal services and technical assistance. Founded in 1998, its programs include legal assistance, educational trainings & publications, urban planning services, and community outreach. MCR helps community organizations build their capacity, accomplish blight mitigation and neighborhood improvement activities, and improve quality of life. Learn more at mi-community.org.

About ULI

The Urban Land Institute provides leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. ULI is an independent global nonprofit supported by members representing the entire spectrum of real estate development and land use disciplines. Learn more at Michigan.uli.org.

About Erb

The Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation’s mission is to nurture environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in metro Detroit, consistent with sustainable business models, and support initiatives to restore the Great Lakes Ecosystem. Learn more at erbff.org/.