

Bush Construction saluted for state award



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Bush Construction and the team behind Rock Island's Jackson Square have been honored with an Illinois Housing Champion Award.

The housing development was one of nine projects statewide to receive the Wyvetter H. Younge Illinois Affordable Housing Champion Award. It was presented last month at the Illinois Governor's Affordable Housing Conference.

Rock Island Economic Growth Corp., or GROWTH, which developed Jackson Square, honored Davenport-based Bush Construction for its role. "Their dynamic group shares the same

passion in their performance as we do for redeveloping Rock Island," said Brian Hollenback, president of Rock Island Renaissance, the parent organization of GROWTH.

Located at 2411 4th Ave., the \$8.8 million Jackson Square is GROWTH's largest and most visible redevelopment to date. The former Illinois Oil Co. building now offers 30 units of rental housing targeting low, moderate and middle income households.

A brownfields remediation, the project included the removal of 40,000 square feet of blight and restoration and new construction work led by Bush.

"We are all pleased to be part of an award-winning project that has made such an impact in the downtown and overall Rock Island community," said A.J. Loss, Bush Construction's president.

In addition to GROWTH and Bush Construction, the project team also included the city of Rock Island, Southwest Design Associates, EnviroNet, Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen and Pioneer Property Management.

"Jackson Square has been a major catalyst to advance economic development efforts for both the downtown and the Arsenal Gateway Area," said Jeff Eder, Rock Island's community economic development director.

He added that the area has seen nearly \$20 million of business growth, expansion and investment, including the Mandus Group/Spirit Partners redevelopment, Bent River Brewery expansion, a new Children's Garden at the Quad-City Botanical Center and the demolition of blight within a three-block radius.