



# Press Release

For Release:  
Immediate

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## Design for New Discovery Museum Recognized for Excellence

*Design by Winchester architects among international winners.*

BETHESDA, MD. (June 5, 2005) – Members of the American Institute of Architects Northern Virginia Chapter gathered to review and celebrate award winning projects at the 2005 Design Awards Gala. The design for the new Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum, slated to break ground in Jim Barnett Park, in Winchester, Virginia, is a creation of Reader & Swartz Architects, of Winchester. The evening, a black tie reception and ceremony, was hosted at new Music Center at Strathmore – a world-class concert hall, itself among the winning projects presented at the Gala.

### **2005 Awards**

“We’re proud to have the wide world discovering the treasure we are creating here in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, and what talent we have on the team with Reader and Swartz”, beamed Peggy McKee, executive director of the museum. The award jury focused their remarks on two key aspects of the Discovery Museum design: sustainability and fun. They applauded the intelligence behind the ecological sensitivity of the design, and the emphasis on making the water and energy management systems accessible to museum visitors. The exterior design was characterized as a “toy box” and as a “place we’d like to bring our grandchildren to visit”.

The award was presented to Reader & Swartz, P.C., and accepted on their behalf by the firm’s principals, Beth Reader and Chuck Swartz, and by Nathan Webb, associate. The honor is yet another feather in the cap for a project that is made possible by unprecedented cooperation between local governments, the nonprofit’s staff and board of directors, and members of our community. Other winners of the AIA’s 2005 Design Awards Gala include the D-Day visitors center for the American cemetery in Normandy, France, and The Music Center at Strathmore, a 2,000 seat state-of-the-art concert facility.

### **About Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum**

The Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum is a 501-(c) 3 non-profit organization. The Museum offers an interactive, hands-on experience for families which focuses on the sciences, mathematics, humanities, and the arts. Explore the exhibits in natural history, paleontology, simple machines, art-in the making. Scale a climbing wall, race balls through loops and ramps, step back in time to a life closer to nature in A Walk Along The Moccasin Trail or pretend you’re saving lives in our medical cove of Our Town. At the Discovery Museum to touch is to explore, to explore is to discover, and to discover is to learn!

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