

URBAN DESIGN GROUP

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Urban Design Group Principal to Participate in Diversity Summit

Award-winning Native American designer Ken Rhyne will participate as a panelist at the “Strength Through Diverse-Cities Multicultural Summit” hosted by the American Institute of Architects Diversity Council.

Dallas (TX), September 17, 2012 – Ken Rhyne, Native American designer and Urban Design Group Principal, will serve as a panelist at the American Institute of Architects’ “Strength Through Diverse-Cities Multicultural Summit on Saturday, September 22, 2012.

Rhyne will represent the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers (AICAE) on the panel, which also includes members of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), AIA Dallas Latinos in Architecture, the ACE Mentor Program, and others.

The summit is presented by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Diversity Council, which is charged with the mission “to create an infrastructure for diversity management; to promote a cultural change; [and] to collaborate with others to improve the recruitment, education, training, promotion, and success of architects from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.”

The two-day summit will take place at the Dallas Center for Architecture, located at 1901 Woodall Rogers Freeway, Dallas, TX 75201. Registration is \$10 for students, \$20 for AIA members, and \$35 for non-members. Additional information about the summit can be found at <http://www.aia.org/about/initiatives/AIAB095577>.

About Ken Rhyne, Allied AIA, AICAE, Principal, UDG:

Principal of Urban Design Group, Ken Rhyne is a noted interior designer and pivotal part of the firm’s leadership team. He is a member of the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers (AICAE) and is an Allied Member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Rhyne has over 35 years of experience in conceptual architectural and interior design projects, including sustainable design, green architecture and the respectful infusion of Native American culture into his work.

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Rhyne's national portfolio includes the Museum of the Seven Feathers in South Carolina, Weedon Island Preserve Educational Center in Florida, Red Hawk Casino in California and the award-winning Cultural Resources Center for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and the Kampen Eagle Wing Center in Indiana.

Rhyne is also a talented blues singer and harmonica player and is regarded by many as one of the most accomplished blues rock/southern rock artists of our time. His album "Caught You White Handed" rose to #1 on the Canadian charts upon release in 2008, followed by an "Album of the Year" nomination at the Native American Music Awards. Rhyne's music may be heard on AirPlayDirect at www.AirPlayDirect.com/KenRhyne.

Through his design, music and civic involvement, Rhyne has served as an advocate for Native American issues throughout his life. He is a Tuscarora Indian and a nationally-recognized designer with a talent for respectfully incorporating tribal culture into museums, cultural centers and other types of facilities. Rhyne is also a member of the Pfeiffer University Baseball Hall of Fame and was a minor league player for the Washington Senators and Texas Rangers.

About Urban Design Group:

Urban Design Group offers architectural, interior design and urban master planning services to its worldwide clientele from studios in Atlanta, GA, and Dallas, TX. A market leader in the application and advancement of Building Information Modeling (BIM) technology, UDG's personnel work on a wide range of projects from hospitality, resort, gaming design and Native American design projects to corporate, university facilities and urban mixed-use developments.

In the firm's 37-year history, Urban Design Group has completed more than \$6 Billion dollars in projects worldwide. The firm has received more than 80 design excellence awards and honors, 15 design competition awards and has been featured in hundreds of magazine articles, newspaper pieces and design resource books. For more information, please visit www.urbandesigngroup.com.

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