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## Bushman Dreyfus Wins National AIA Award for Design Excellence for The Center at Belvedere

**Charlottesville, VA, November 3, 2021** – The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has awarded Charlottesville-based Bushman Dreyfus Architects the prestigious Design for Aging Review Award of Merit for The Center at Belvedere. This award recognizes advanced design concepts, research, and solutions sensitive to the needs of an aging population.

In announcing the award, AIA representatives hailed The Center as a new prototype and model for similar centers. Calling the robust offering of activities and level of layout and detailed design “exceptional,” the jury noted that “Every aspect of the site, program, and building reflects a strong desire to be comfortable, safe, and life-enriching for its users ... This is not a classic senior environment and works hard to break stereotypes.”

“Creating a building to enhance and promote healthy aging meant reimagining what a ‘senior center’ could be,” said Jeff Dreyfus, Bushman Dreyfus’ lead partner for the project. “It required new thinking of how The Center could better serve older adults and the larger community, how it should serve the environment, and how it could maximize available resources. Leaving behind preconceptions of what design for aging is supposed to look like, The Center is modern and open. It provides a variety of opportunities for learning, meeting, and engaging with others. Indoor and outdoor spaces appeal to all ages, making The Center a multi-generational nexus for our entire community. We’re grateful to have been part of such a forward-looking project.”

“The entire project team designed and delivered an exceptional resource for our community,” added Peter Thompson, executive director of The Center, a nonprofit that works to improve the health and well-being of older adults. “It’s a testament to the power of collaboration among experts and community stakeholders who understand the impacts of healthy aging.”

The 47,000-square-foot building, which has also garnered an Interior Design Excellence Award, was completed in March 2020. Along with accommodating programming for the seven dimensions of wellness—core to The Center’s healthy aging model—the design ensures sustainability of The Center’s business model, which relies on a diverse revenue stream from earned income and philanthropy. Located just off E. Rio Road, in Albemarle County’s urban ring, it houses a Sentara Family Medicine practice and Greenberry’s Coffee Co. Amenities include group exercise studios, an equipped fitness center, a performing arts auditorium, classrooms, conference rooms, and outdoor spaces for programs and events.

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Key to The Center's appeal and accessibility was the insight provided by Lifespan Design Studio, senior center and universal design specialists. "This landmark facility is reshaping attitudes, raising expectations, and propelling an industry in search of a new way to engage and enrich the community forward," said Lifespan Design partner Ellen Gallow. "We have no doubt that its impact will be transformational."

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**About Bushman Dreyfus Architects:**

Bushman Dreyfus Architects is a leader in the design of Charlottesville's civic buildings such as The City Center for Contemporary Arts, The Paramount Theater, The Jefferson School City Center, the new Center at Belvedere, and the Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia now under construction. Learn more: [www.bdarchitects.com](http://www.bdarchitects.com)

**About Lifespan Design Studio:**

Lifespan Design Studio is a senior community center and universal/design for aging specialist that works with commercial, institutional, municipal, and residential clients across the country to achieve design solutions that are seamlessly user-friendly for people of all ages. Learn more: [www.lifespandesignstudio.com](http://www.lifespandesignstudio.com)

**About The Center at Belvedere:**

The Center at Belvedere is a nationally-accredited, award-winning nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for healthy aging through social engagement, physical well-being, civic involvement, creativity, and lifelong learning. Learn more: [www.thecentercville.org](http://www.thecentercville.org).

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