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**DAVID BROWER CENTER OPENS IN DOWNTOWN BERKELEY
WITH OPEN HOUSE**

Bay Area's Newest Nonprofit Home to Connect and Inspire Next Generation of Activists

Celebratory Open House on Sunday, May 10 from 11am – 7:30pm

Berkeley, CA -- Berkeley's greenest new building opens its doors to the public with plans to connect the Bay Area's many communities active in environmental and social causes. Designed to inspire everyone to take steps toward creating a healthier, more sustainable world, the David Brower Center will offer educational programs, exhibits, nonprofit office space and event space – all under a striking photovoltaic roof in the heart of downtown Berkeley.

To kick off its opening, the David Brower Center invites the community to tour the building, meet its nonprofit resident organizations, and engage with a variety of environmental and social issues at an **Open House on Sunday, May 10 from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

"The David Brower Center was founded to bring people together to inspire and sustain environmental and social action in the 21st century," said Amy Tobin, Executive Director, David Brower Center. "We wanted to create a stable, healthy home for nonprofits and provide a welcoming space for the public to engage with some of the most important issues of our time. We hope the Center will inspire others to design buildings and cities that are healthier."

One of the Bay Area's greenest buildings, the David Brower Center was built next to and in partnership with Oxford Plaza, an affordable apartment community. The Center includes event space and a state-of-the-art theater, an organic restaurant (opening in the Fall), a public gallery, and offices for nonprofit organizations that work on environmental and social issues. The Brower Center anticipates a LEED Platinum rating, the highest designation available from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Open House

"On Mother's Day, we invite families to come together at the Brower Center in a celebration of

nature and community,” said Tobin. “Young people can learn about carnivorous plants, peer at the sun through a solar telescope, take a nature drawing class, or watch a slide show about the world’s highest peaks, all in the greenest building in Berkeley,” said Tobin. There will also be a rich array of sophisticated lectures, documentaries, and discussions for adults presented by experts on the connections between ecology, economy, and social justice issues around the world.

The Open House will be a day-long celebration, showcasing the Brower Center’s resident nonprofit tenants, and the unique green features of the building. The open house will feature live music, building tours, film screenings, and panel discussions about the pressing environmental issues of our time. (A complete schedule is attached.)

A Healthy, Green Building

Located at 2150 Allston Way at Oxford Street, the David Brower Center is one of the Bay Area’s greenest buildings. The four-story, 50,000 square-foot building was constructed using 50 percent recycled materials and runs 40 percent more efficiently than other office buildings. Key features include a roof of photovoltaic panels that provide cooling shade while also collecting solar energy; “smart” lighting throughout the building; rainwater collection; and special concrete with a high slag content that reduces greenhouse gases.

The Brower Center’s transit-friendly location -- within walking distance of the Downtown Berkeley BART station and AC Transit bus stops – and onsite bicycle parking and showers make it easy for commuters to leave their cars at home.

The nonprofit organizations working in the building will benefit from operable windows that provide fresh air, natural daylighting, and the non-toxic carpet and finishes. Studies around the country show that green buildings increase efficiency and reduce absenteeism.

“The Brower Center represents the cutting edge for healthy, green offices,” said David Gottfried, CEO of Regenerative Ventures and founder of the U.S. and World Green Business Councils. “Many of the sustainable aspects of this building are practical, affordable and achievable by other builders. I hope that the building industry can learn from this great model.”

An Office to Inspire Innovation and Action

The Brower Center was created to strengthen and support the organizations that work for the betterment of the planet and its people. Toward that end, the Brower Center provides a healthy, stable workplace designed specifically to foster and promote creative collaboration among its tenants.

With shared services and facilities like conference rooms, copy room, kitchens and more, the nonprofit tenants of the Brower Center can eventually reduce their overhead costs. Moreover, indoor and outdoor common spaces throughout the building allow for informal connections and potential collaborations.

“Moving into the Brower Center offers us a tremendous opportunity to advance our work,” said Zenobia Barlow, cofounder and executive director of the Center for Ecoliteracy, a nonprofit dedicated to schooling for sustainability in K-12 education. “It reflects all the values we stand for – and shows that bringing an ecological understanding to how we live leads to a better sense of community and quality of life.”

Resident organizations of the David Brower Center include Earth Island Institute, Center for Ecoliteracy, Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE), International Rivers, The Redford Center and Madera Group.

A Place for Community

The David Brower Center is the perfect destination for the Bay Area community to gather for collaboration and education. Both the Brower Center and its resident organizations will offer educational programming, exhibits, lectures, film screenings and events. Meeting and event spaces at the Brower Center feature world-class audio/visual technology, as well as easy WiFi access throughout the building. Public and event spaces include the Hazel Wolf Gallery, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Theater, conference and meeting rooms and, opening this fall, Terrain Restaurant, a new organic eatery with an outside terrace providing breakfast, lunch and dinner for the neighborhood.

About the David Brower Center

The nonprofit David Brower Center is a vibrant place that inspires, sustains, and brings together people committed to environmental and social action. The Center offers educational and arts programs, stunning

conference and event facilities, and high-quality office space for nonprofits -- all in the greenest building in Berkeley. It is named to honor David Brower, a Berkeley native who many consider the father of the modern environmental movement.

The David Brower Center is located at 2150 Allston Way, at the corner of Oxford Street. It is walking distance from the Downtown Berkeley BART station. More information about the David Brower Center can be found at www.browercenter.org

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