

# WELCOMING WISDOM

**O**VER the course of two weeks in June, the five educational professionals serving as jurors in AS&U's 2023 Educational Interiors Showcase reviewed dozens of design plans and examined hundreds of photos as they evaluated which of the K-12 and higher education projects entered in the competition commanded their attention for exceptional designs. Then the five—a mix of architects, interior designers and school and university administrators—sembled via videoconference into a virtual jury room for an afternoon to discuss the merits of the projects they had identified as standouts. After a few hours of debate, the five reached a consensus on the facility designs they felt were impressive enough to be awarded Citations.

As they embarked on their deliberations, the jurors identified some of the criteria they would be looking for as they evaluated designs and compared projects with one another. Those included:

- Projects that incorporate sustainability
- Designs that are adaptable to changing needs
- Designs and facilities that promote health and wellness
- Spaces that that are accessible and inclusive
- An awareness of how facilities may affect the mental health of students and staff
- Originality of spaces
- Spaces that excite the imagination of students
- Effective use of materials and finishesInterior materials appropriately responsive to age group and school identity



Todd Buerger



Ken Hagen



Wendy Hynes



Jake Slobodnik



Amanda Vigneau

## WHAT THE JURY SAID:

“Way to turn a vacant big-box store into an immersive environment for kids. A great adaptive reuse project; all early childhood education centers should strive toward this level of imagination.” p. 12-13

“Beautiful space celebrating the energy and optimism of its students. Dynamic floor plan with a lovely balance of materials, textures and colors on the interior.” p. 14-15

“Very respectful to the original architecture. Good natural lighting and historical preservation; great ceilings and open space.” p. 16

“A space to get kids excited to learn trades. Bright colors and architectural accents mimic machinery and equipment to form a seamless experience for end users.” p. 18-19