Weitzman
SCHOOL OF DESIGN
University of Pennsylvania

WEITZMAN SCHOOL AWARDS 2026

NEW YORK

Photograph by Ben Gancsos ©2016

November 10, 2026

Whitney Museum of American Art

Sponsor the Weitzman School Awards: New York

awards.design.upenn.edu

Dear Supporter,

As I prepare for my final year as dean of the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary community that has shaped and sustained this school's mission over the years. I am beyond proud of all we have accomplished and excited about the future of this dynamic school.

In this spirit, I am writing to invite you to join us as a sponsor for the 2026 Weitzman School Awards: New York, taking place on November 10, 2026 at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and to consider supporting this important celebration of leadership and student opportunity.

The Weitzman School Awards event is one of our most meaningful annual traditions. Bringing together alumni, faculty, students, and distinguished leaders from across the built environment professions, the evening features a cocktail reception, dinner, and awards ceremony honoring transformational architects and planners of today and tomorrow. Most importantly, all proceeds from the event directly support scholarships for students studying architecture and city and regional planning at Weitzman.

Our juries have come together to select medalists championing innovation and changing the course of their fields. I am pleased to share that the 2026 **Kanter Tritsch Medal in Architecture** will be awarded to **Steven Holl Architects** of New York, NY, and the 2026 **Witte-Sakamoto Family Medal in City and Regional Planning** will be awarded to **The City of Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan**. Historically, each awardee has given a presentation on their work during the course of the evening.

Scholarship support has never been more essential. Through initiatives such as the **Witte-Sakamoto Family Prize in City and Regional Planning** and the **Kanter Tritsch Prize in Energy and Architectural Innovation**, we are able to invest in exceptionally talented students whose work will shape healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable communities around the world. These awards not only recognize excellence but also ensure that promising future leaders have access to a Weitzman education regardless of financial circumstance. Winners of these annual student prizes will be announced at the event.

As I conclude my tenure as dean, this year's Awards celebration carries special significance for me personally. I would be deeply grateful for your partnership and hope you will consider joining us as a sponsor for this important occasion.

Thank you for your friendship, leadership, and continued commitment to the Weitzman School. I look forward to celebrating with you.

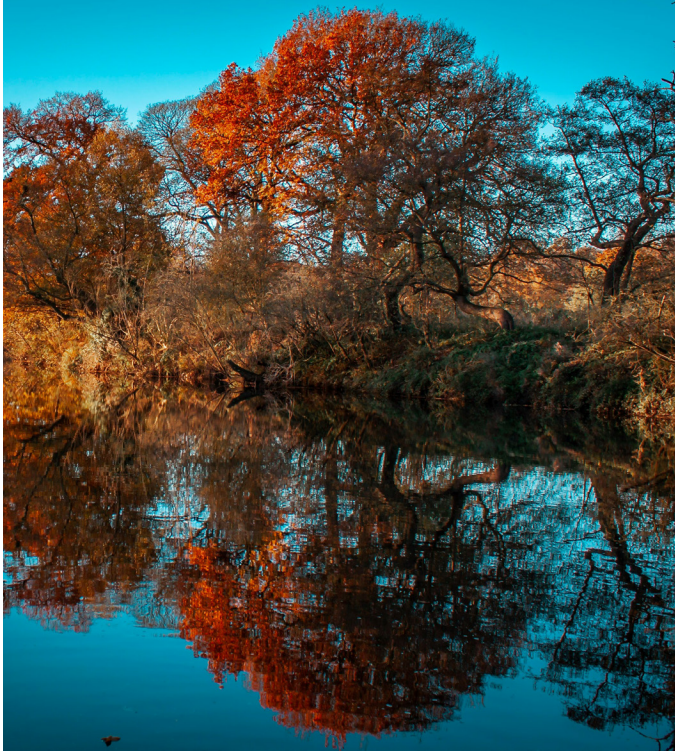
Sincerely yours,

Frederick "Fritz" Steiner (MRP'77, MA'86, PhD'86)
Dean and Paley Professor
Stuart Weitzman School of Design
University of Pennsylvania

2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

Gifts of all sizes towards the Weitzman School Awards will support scholarships for students studying architecture and city and regional planning.

Each sponsorship tier is named for a native North American tree species that embodies the same qualities we celebrate in our honorees: far-reaching impact and an unwavering commitment to a healthier, more sustainable future.



$25,000 – Redwood

The tallest living trees on Earth, redwoods are an enduring symbol of resilience, scale, and the long view that defines transformational leadership.

- Recognized as a Host Committee sponsor
- Ten event tickets included
- Donor name featured in all print materials, including the event program
- Donor name featured in all digital marketing materials, including the event website and electronic event announcements

$12,500 – White Oak

A cornerstone of eastern North American forests, the white oak supports a diversity of native wildlife; it is an emblem of deep-rooted commitment and ecological generosity.

- Ten event tickets included (full table)
- Donor name listed in the event program
- Donor name featured in digital marketing materials, including the event website

$5,000 – Sugar Maple

Celebrated for its brilliant autumn color, the sugar maple is a beloved fixture of northeastern landscapes and a symbol of seasonal transformation.

- Four event tickets included
- Donor name listed on the event website

$2,500 – Sycamore

Capable of thriving along riverbanks and urban edges alike, the sycamore is adaptable, resilient, and a vital part of the communities it inhabits.

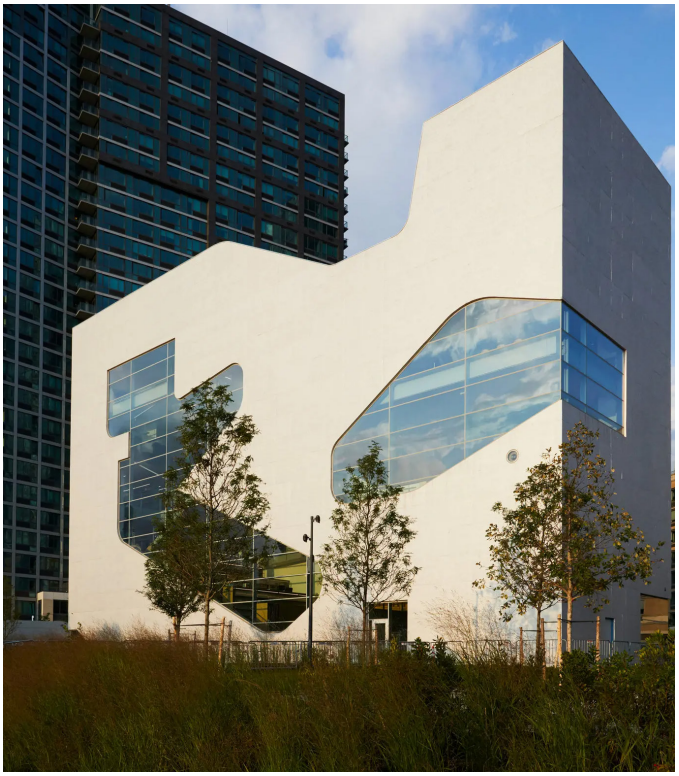
- Two event tickets included
- Donor name listed on the event website

$1,250 – Dogwood

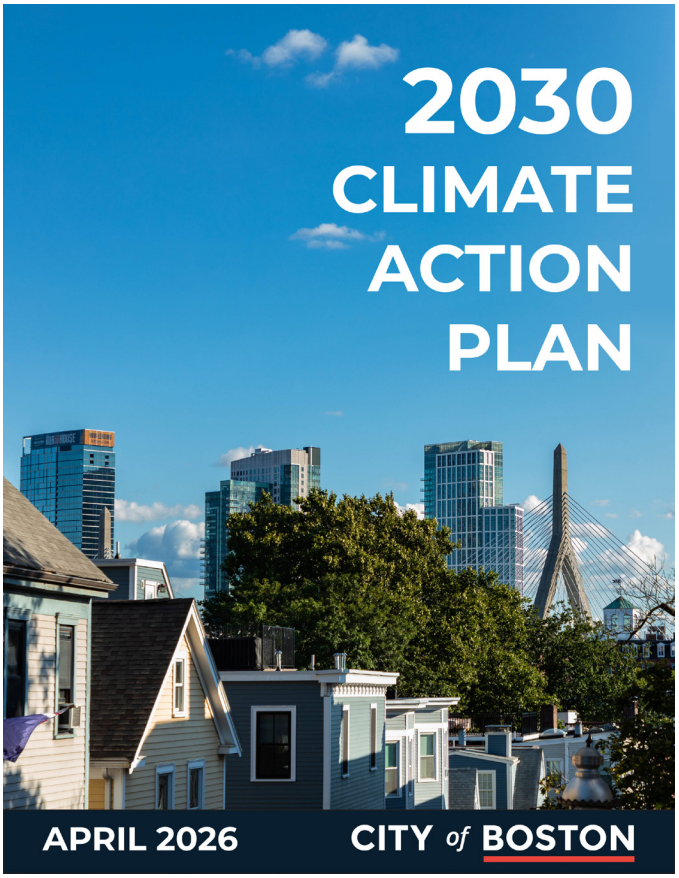
An understory tree, the dogwood blooms beneath the forest canopy in early spring, a reminder that beauty and impact are not reserved for the tallest trees.

- One event ticket included
- Donor name listed on the event website

About the Winners



Hunters Point Library, Queens, NY.
Credit: Winnie Au for *The New York Times*.



Steven Holl is a New York–based American architect and watercolorist and the founding principal of Steven Holl Architects. He has served as a tenured Professor of Architecture at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) since 1981. His firm is recognized for its commitment to sustainability as a fundamental aspect of innovative and imaginative architecture, creating buildings that are deeply rooted in and responsive to their sites.

Notable Works:

- Platt Student Performing Arts Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Hunters Point Library, Queens, NY
- The REACH, Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.
- Meander Housing, Helsinki, Finland
- Cofco Cultural and Health Center, Shanghai, China

The Hunters Point Library is a 22,000-square-foot public library and park on the Long Island City waterfront. Designed as a standalone civic landmark, it maximizes surrounding green space while offering diverse reading and gathering areas. Its sculpted, aluminum-painted concrete shell frames Manhattan views and reimagines the traditional library as a vibrant community destination.

The City of Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan is a forward-thinking roadmap for reducing carbon emissions and protecting the city's diverse neighborhoods from the impacts of climate change. The plan is a direct result of collaboration with and feedback from community members as well as a deep partnership with Boston's businesses and institutions, all with a shared goal of helping Boston thrive for generations to come. Centered on two interconnected priorities, mitigation and resilience, it champions the actions needed to meet the global challenges of climate change while tracking local implementation.

About the Weitzman School Awards

The Weitzman School Awards event includes a cocktail reception and dinner featuring multimedia presentations by some of the most innovative architects and planners in the world. This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate exceptional Weitzman students—demonstrating what a new generation of architects and city planners can accomplish with encouragement, instruction, and support. All proceeds from the event will support student scholarships.

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THE WITTE-SAKAMOTO FAMILY PRIZE AND MEDAL IN CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Established in 2018 by a generous gift from Weitzman alum Bill Witte and his wife Keiko Sakamoto, the Witte-Sakamoto Family Prize in City and Regional Planning provides a $50,000 scholarship, awarded annually to a student entering the final year in the Master of City Planning program, which covers the bulk of tuition in the final year of study. In conjunction with the Prize, the School presents an annual Medal to a firm, team, or professional for an exemplary plan that advances plan-making in at least four of the following areas: social equity, environmental quality, design, public health, mobility, housing affordability, and economic development. Previous medalists include **Greenheart Louisville (2025), Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan (2024), Reimagine Middle Branch Plan (2023), Hartford400 (2022), Minneapolis 2040 (2021), Greenplan Philadelphia (2020), and Regional Plan Association (RPA) (2019).**

THE KANTER TRITSCH PRIZE IN ENERGY AND ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATION AND THE KANTER TRITSCH MEDAL IN ARCHITECTURE

Established in 2017 by a generous gift from Weitzman alum Lori Kanter Tritsch, the Kanter Tritsch Prize is awarded annually to a second-year Master of Architecture student in the form of a $50,000 scholarship, which covers the bulk of tuition in the final year of study. Every year, the Weitzman School of Design also awards a Medal to a practicing architect or architects for leadership in energy and architectural innovation. Previous medalists include **Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA) (2025), Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa (SANAA) (2024), KoningEizenberg Architecture (2023), Diller Scofidio + Renfro (2022), MASS Design Group (2021), Peter Eisenman, FAIA, Int FRIBA (2020), A. Eugene Kohn (2019), and Tod Williams and Billie Tsien (2018).**

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