

AVRP Skyport Studios Founder, Doug Austin, FAIA, Invited to Exclusive Forum in Mexico City, Mexico

Leading San Diego Architect Shares Expertise on Creating Livable Cities at CoRe | Urban Forum CDMX 2016

San Diego, CA, **December 9, 2016** –AVRP Skyport Studios is pleased to announce that its Chairman, Founder and CEO, Doug Austin, FAIA, was recently invited to the speak at CoRe | Urban Forum CDMX 2016 on December 6 and 7, 2016 in Mexico City, Mexico. CoRe | Urban Forum CDMX 2016 aims to open a productive discussion on the main challenges and opportunities Mexico City faces today in urban transformation. The goal is to contribute to the improvement, development and regeneration of the urban area. The small forum consisted of 100 carefully selected international experts who presented and discussed achievable actions to start producing a better Mexico City.

The overall focus of the forum was how to reclaim Mexico City from the great car invasion of the past century, and make it a more livable city, a city designed for people. The forum, with keynote speaker Jan Gehl, was broken up into four roundtables focused on Mobility, Public Space, Zoning and Diverse City, and Citizenship and Responsibility. Mr. Austin participated in the third roundtable, Zoning and Diverse City. The discussion had 12 participants, including the commissioner of planning for Mexico City, who debated or proposed ideas and solutions for mixed use development in Mexico City.

Armando Ramos, Founding Partner at Diverse Projects, says, “We were honored to have Doug at the CoRe Urban Forum this year. As a former CCDC leader and task force member for San Diego’s Ballpark planning, Doug brought valuable experience from the success that San Diego has had in transforming its downtown area to one of the most livable and desirable places in America.”

Since establishing his firm in San Diego in 1976, Doug Austin FAIA, Chairman, CEO and Founder of AVRP Skyport Studios, has led teams in designing projects around the globe. Mr. Austin has been the recipient of over 135 design awards including National AIA, CCAIA, SD Chapter AIA, Gold Nugget, SAM Awards, Golden Tower/BIA Awards. Well known for his expertise in design of the urban environment including innovative solutions for affordable housing, Austin was appointed by the Mayor of San Diego to chair the city’s Design and Construction Task Force for the new Ballpark and Ballpark District. He then served as a Vice-Chair for the City’s redevelopment agency that helped plan, facilitate and manage redevelopment of downtown San Diego. Mr. Austin currently serves as a Planning Commissioner for the City. Mr. Austin and the AVRP Skyport Studios team is responsible for the design of the upcoming \$1.2 billion Seaport San Diego Project, the most significant urban, waterfront project in San Diego, as well as the \$239 million new tower to expand Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center.

Douglas H. Austin, FAIA, Chairman, CEO and Founder of AVRP Skyport Studios, says, “I was so pleased to be invited to participate in the CoRe Urban Forum. There were a lot of really outstanding ideas that came out of the forum. As one of the largest cities in the world, Mexico City has complex issues, but unlimited possibilities. I think that creating a balance between a grand vision that shapes rules for success, and incentives for developers are going to be key to creating a more livable Mexico City.”

About AVRP Skyport Studios

In a world of “decorated boxes” and formula design, AVRP Skyport Studios strives to find and develop an original idea that drives the creative process for each project. Principals Douglas H. Austin, FAIA; Christopher T. Veum, AAIA, IIDA; Randy Robbins, AIA, LEED AP; and Frank Wolden represent award-winning portfolios that have inspired developers and civic leaders to think beyond traditional boundaries to infuse each project with experiential community connections. Celebrating 40 years of creativity and accomplishment in 2016, the firm and its principals have earned nearly 150 design awards. For more information, visit www.avrpstudios.com.

###