

**News release**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015**

**For immediate release**

**Social Justice and Human Rights centre awarded RIBA 'National Award'**

The Foundry, in Vauxhall, London, was last week named as one of the winners of the RIBA 'National Award', following its previous 'London Building of the Year' title. RIBA National Awards are given to buildings across the UK recognised as significant contributions to architecture.

The building, designed by Architecture 00 and certified by BREEAM as 'Excellent', is a unique work-space for organisations engaged in promoting social justice and human rights. A partnership of organisations including the Ethical Property Company, The Barrow Cadbury Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, LankellyChase Foundation and Trust for London developed the vision and funded the project which opened its doors in September 2014.

Speaking at the opening event in April, social investment pioneer Sir Ronald Cohen said *"It is a fantastic achievement to create a social justice hub. We have seen the power of hubs in technology investments where it was all about bringing people together who approached similar issues from different angles; who were driven by a powerful motive to succeed and by cooperating together to create new things to transform lives. I think it is about to happen in the social arena. This magnificent facility showcases the marriage of foundations and new sources of investment, many of which, like Bridges Ventures or Big Society Capital, were not in existence a decade ago."*

RIBA judges praised it for being a *"refreshing reminder of what an architect can bring to a project regardless of budget"* while Ellis Woodman described it as *"a building full of optimism"* (Architects Journal 24/10/14).

Susan Ralphs, Managing Director of Ethical Property Company, who manage the building and are one of the founding partners said: *"We are delighted at the recognition this award gives to a project that strives to blend intentional design, high environmental standards and affordability. The result is a fantastic space for social justice organisations – I'm thankful that the RIBA judges recognise that."*

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

- Situated between Oval and Vauxhall tube stations, The Foundry is built around the shell of an Edwardian shoe polish factory
- Its 2,800m<sup>2</sup> of office space is home to more than 25 charities and social enterprises while the centre's conference room, six meeting rooms and exhibition space are available to hire external organisations
- The building is the result of a new wave of mission-related social investment where equal value is placed upon social and financial returns
- For more information on the building and its tenants visit [www.aplaceforchange.co.uk](http://www.aplaceforchange.co.uk).
- Established in Bristol in 1998, the Ethical Property Company is now one of the UK's leading social businesses, owning and managing 23 buildings and community assets across the UK, and supporting almost 1,000 charities, voluntary organisations, and social enterprises.
- For more information please contact Simon Halls at [simon@ethicalproperty.co.uk](mailto:simon@ethicalproperty.co.uk) or call 01865 207812.