



CUI Awards recognize Urban Leaders across Canada

April 2, 2013



2013 Urban Leadership Award Recipients

Toronto, Ontario – Seven individuals and groups have been chosen as the winners of this year's Urban Leadership Awards program for making Canada's cities healthier, safer, and more dynamic places to live and work.

Ranging from a mixed-media collaborative documentary program that helps communities re-envision their highrise neighbourhoods to a volunteer-led festival of urban literacy, to individuals who have dedicated years to building their communities, the winners this year once again demonstrated creativity, persistence, and dedication to improving quality of life in cities across Canada.

Selection of this year's winners was done by a cross-disciplinary jury, under the chairmanship of CUI Board Member Rupen Seoni. "We had impressive nominations from all across the country to select from," said Mr. Seoni. "It was an extremely difficult decision-making process this year, and the jury for the first time decided to award 3 honourable mentions in the Global City and Innovation, Prosperity and Renewal, and Youth Categories."

The awards ceremony to honour this year's exceptional urban leaders will be held on June 17th from 11:30 am-2:30-pm at the Westin Ottawa hotel. Join us for lunch at this downtown location before seeing the following awards presented:

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2013 Urban Leadership Award Winners

City Soul

Jane's Walk: for initiating volunteer-led walks that help people understand and learn about their neighborhoods, and that foster urban literacy and civic engagement

City Champion

Brian F.C. Smith: for transforming a neighbourhood centre into one of Toronto's leading social services organization that has come up with innovative models to solve complex urban issues

John Tory: for building greater regional cooperation to improve the economic development and efficiency of city regions, notably through the creation of the CivicAction Alliance

Global City and Innovation

HIGHRISE: produced by the National Film Board of Canada, the project used the documentary process to drive social change, bringing community collaboration to bear on a global challenge (highrise.nfb.ca)

Prosperity and Renewal

Niagara Prosperity Initiative: for creating an extensive initiative and investing long-term into programs to decrease poverty in the region that focus on inclusion

Youth

Jacob Zorzella: for being a role model in his community through his leadership roles, while pursuing an elite athletic career

Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award

William (Bill) Teron: for his influential career in public policy and passionate advocacy for quality design and commitment to development in the Ottawa area

Honourable Mentions:

East Scarborough Storefront: a hub model for service delivery that also serves as a community builder and facilitator across agencies, communities, and support organizations

Mitchell Cohen of the Daniels Corporation: for working collaboratively through all phases of the Regent Park revitalization to build a vibrant new neighbourhood

Jade Shortte with Drum Artz Canada: for her commitment, dedication and leadership in her community, serving as a role model to children and aspiring musicians

For more information about this year's Urban Leadership Awards Program and to purchase tickets for the ceremony, please visit our website at www.canurb.org.



About the Urban Leadership Awards Program

Since its inception in 2004, the Urban Leadership Awards program has been paying tribute to individuals, groups and organizations that have made a profound and lasting impact on the quality of life in Canada's cities and urban regions.

The awards program is also a fundraiser for the Institute in support of our internship program, dedicated to providing undergraduate scholars with practical work experience.

Awards are presented in the following 8 categories:

- 1) **City Soul** – This award is given in recognition of pursuits which inspire, inform, enrich and engage our collective spirit, and which celebrate nature and/or the authenticity of place. This can be achieved through culture, nature, the arts, entertainment, heritage, sports, recreation or politics by reigniting the soul and passion of a city.
- 2) **City Champion** – This award is given to individuals who have left a legacy of leadership and vision in their community and whose strength of character and commitment to their community has had a significant and lasting impact.
- 3) **Global City and Innovation**- This award acknowledges organizations, groups, events, projects, policies, or programs that are solving urban problems in a creative, entrepreneurial and ethical manner, and creating or enhancing a city's reputation and place in the world.
- 4) **Prosperity and Renewal** – This award recognizes Initiatives, policies, programs, organizations or entrepreneurial actions that successfully engage people and have a catalytic effect in stimulating city revitalization and natural regeneration, and a stronger economy.
- 5) **Youth** – There will always be a “next generation” and so it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the actions of individuals (under the age of 30) who have demonstrated outstanding citizenship and contributed to city building, and in so doing, shown extraordinary qualities of leadership capable of inspiring the next generation of leaders.

The awards program also confers a signature award in honour of an exceptional urbanist:

Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award

An individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the public realm, over many years and in more than one field, thereby gaining reputation and acclaim for their vision, passion and impact.

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Members of the Jury

Members on the ULA Jury panel include:

Mr. Rupen Seoni, CUI Board Member and Vice President and Practice Leader, Environics Analytics (**Jury Chair**); **Dr. Catherine Chandler-Crichlow**, Executive Director at the Centre of Excellence for Financial Services Education, Toronto Financial Services Alliance; **Ms. Helen Cooper**, Former Mayor of Kingston and Head of the OMB, Manager, Ministry of Community and Social Services; **Ms. Claudette Toupin**, Regional Director, Canada School of Public Service, Manitoba; **Amber Morley**, youth advocate, Board of Directors for the Remix Project; **Vanessa Poloniato**, after school program supervisor for Success Beyond Limits; and **Heather Laird**, Policy Development & Constellation Convener, Ontario Nonprofit Network.

Thank you to our Sponsors:



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