
TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: A. DYKE, CULTURE OFFICER OF DEVELOPMENT

NOTED: K. DUBEAU, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE ECONOMY DEPARTMENT
Z. LIFSHIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INVEST BARRIE
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: 2018 BARRIE ARTS AWARDS

DATE: MARCH 4, 2019

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the 2018 Barrie Arts Awards program and event. For the past ten years, the City of Barrie has curated and hosted an Arts Awards event, celebrating excellence in a variety of artistic endeavours and recognizing the growing community of creatives in Barrie. The Arts Awards event held on November 21st, 2018 was the largest event to date, with more than 220 people in attendance at the Barrie Country Club. The event has played a significant role in strengthening and profiling the dynamic arts community in the City, and in engaging the business and philanthropic sectors in supporting the arts in Barrie.

Each year, nominations are accepted from the community for recognition of excellence in the arts and contributions to the community. An independent jury of non-Barrie-based cultural experts review the applications and select finalists and winners for the awards. This year, the City of Barrie honoured eight award recipients at the awards program's 10th anniversary celebration. A summary of their impressive accomplishments is listed below. Each recipient received a beautifully hand-crafted award created by local artist Jeanette Luchese.

Notable Developments for the 10th Anniversary of the Barrie Arts Awards:

- Moved event to Barrie Country Club to accommodate the greater numbers of attendees
- Engaged two new corporate sponsors – Alectra Utilities and Barrierview Retirement Community
- Introduced a new Cultural Changemaker Award - to recognize contributions to the artistic and cultural communities in Barrie
- Facilitated the donation of two Canadian-made acoustic guitars to the Instrument Lending Library, a partnership between the Huronia Symphony Orchestra and the Barrie Public Library, providing access to musical instruments for residents in Barrie.
- First ever female appointed as the City's Poet Laureate – Victoria Butler
- The event was captured on video and is available on the Creative Barrie Facebook page.

The 10th anniversary of the Barrie Arts Awards was a reflection on the substantial growth and development of our city's arts community over the last decade. In the year ahead, our goals are to maintain this path of development and to collaborate with additional partners. We hope to increase our outreach and further our commitment to making the Barrie Arts Awards an inclusive event that highlights the diverse array of talent we have in our city. Nominations for the 2019 Arts Awards will be open in the spring.

The Award Winners:**Most Promising Youth - Mitchell Graszat**

Mitch is an award-winning filmmaker in the midst of completing a film degree at Ryerson University. A renaissance man, Mitch not only films and edits his work, but he writes his own scripts and produces his own original film scores. His films have regularly been nominated for and have won awards at the Barrie Film Festival and Wasaga Beach Film Festival beginning when he was still in high school. His work has also been screened at TIFF, Vaughan Film Festival and South Georgian Bay Film Fest.

Emerging Artist – Megan Anne

Megan is currently enrolled in the Independent Music Production program at Seneca College. Prior to this, she attended York University's Vocal Music program, and was the school's 2017 recipient of both the Sterling Beckwith Award, and the Imasco Performing Arts Award. Megan has taken vocal lessons for the past four years and is self-taught on piano and ukulele. Her debut EP "Phoenix" was released on all major streaming services in the fall of 2018.

Artist Without Barriers - Valerie Losell

In the 9 years since suffering a career-ending cognitive brain and spinal cord injury, Valerie has used art and writing to re-connect with the world. She is an avid painter, using a variety of mediums to express herself and find emotional healing. During recovery, she memorized and recited poems aloud as a way to regain speech and short term memory skills. This inspired her to write poems to accompany her paintings. Since then, Valerie has released two handmade collections of her work which she has presented at two solo exhibitions in 2015 and 2016. Her debut poetry collection, "Holding Up the Sky: 33 Paintings and their Poems" was released through Friesen Press, Victoria on May 1, 2018. Valerie remains an active member of the Barrie Art Club and the MacLaren Art Gallery, as well as an advocate for using painting and poetry as a way through trauma.

Business Champion - Glenn Coulson

Glenn worked as Theatre by the Bay's Director of Development and Associate Producer for over 11 years, where he raised close to 3 million dollars (including in kind donations) for the company. His efforts allowed Theatre by the Bay to produce approximately 50 productions, hire hundreds of artists, and train thousands of local youth through their educational programs. In 2010, The City of Barrie hired Glenn as the Fundraising Campaign Coordinator for the Five Points Theatre. He was subsequently hired by Barrie's Downtown BIA as the Fundraising Campaign Coordinator for the Memorial Square Enhancement and Meridian Place – a \$5 million project. Both venues have become the homes of Barrie's cultural community. Glenn currently sits on the board of directors for Talk is Free Theatre and is an active member of the arts and culture community.

Excellence in the Arts - Tori Foster

Tori is a visual artist who teaches part time at Ryerson University's School of Image Arts, where she also completed her undergrad with a focus in gender and sexual orientation. Her current work is being funded by two Canada Council for the Arts production grants. Her documentary "533 Statements" premiered at Toronto's Inside Out film festival, where it won Best Canadian Feature. It went on to screen at dozens of festivals across the world. In 2017, Tori flew to Moose Jaw to attend the opening of her solo show on exhibition at the Esplanade Art Gallery in Medicine Hat. From there she flew to Lethbridge where her piece "The Alchemist Husband" was shown at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. She is currently exhibiting a solo show at Pari Nadimi Gallery. Her work has been presented in 16 countries and is held in numerous private and corporate collections.

Contribution to the Community - Angela Baldwin

Angela's contributions have led to the physical transformation of Barrie's cultural community. She was a Capital Campaign Donor for the Memorial Square and Meridian Place transformation and her donation to the development of the Five Points Theatre led to the lobby of the theatre being named in her honour. She was also involved in the planning stages focused upon the needs of the theatre space and the building layout. Angela is the Title Sponsor of Theatre by the Bay's Indie Producer's Co-op and the current Chair of the Barrie Film Festival. Along with running her own business, Baldwin Planning and Development Consulting, Angela is a Member of the Barrie Ambassadors Steering Committee, a Member of the Maycourt Club of Barrie, a Scholarship Donor for the 'Women in Tuition' initiative through Georgian College, and a Member of Ripples of Kindness and Gals that Give. Her contributions to our community led to her being awarded Ann Hoggarth's Leading Women Award in 2017 as well as being nominated for the RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneurs Award in 2018.

Cultural Changemaker – Stephen Mosley, aka Mose Stephenson

The Cultural Changemaker award is given to signify an individual's efforts to make change within the arts community of Barrie and acknowledge their impact on the cultural landscape. It is a discretionary award only given out to an individual who is highly notable in a particular year for their contributions. In June of 2018, Barrie lost one of its most talented singer-songwriters. Stephen Mosley was a folk musician, coffee shop owner, music-scene founder and well-known busker who lobbied for the creation of a street performer program in Barrie. In the 1970s Stephen was instrumental in establishing the first Barrie Folk Society. As a singer-songwriter, Mose self-produced five albums in Barrie and had songs profiled on CBC Radio. His legacy lives on in his music, and in Barrie's Emerging Musicians Program, an evolution of the street performer program which serves as an incubator for young and emerging musicians building music careers. In honour of Mose's musical legacy, the City of Barrie arranged for the donation of two Canadian-made acoustic guitars to the Instrument Lending Library, a partnership between Huronia Symphony Orchestra and the Barrie Public Library. As the wait-list at the lending library is significant, the City's contribution of two new guitars will make a substantial impact on the program and library's accessibility.

Poet Laureate - Victoria Butler

Victoria Butler was appointed as the City of Barrie's third ever, and its first female, Poet Laureate in 2018. Victoria Butler is the editor-in-chief of the literary journal *The Northern Appeal*. It is a bi-annual, non-for-profit, journal that serves as a platform for creatives in the Simcoe County and Muskoka area to have their work published and to showcase the area's talent. Victoria's work has been published in the *Acta Victoriana*, *untethered mag*, *Vagabond City Lit*, and *The Veg*. Her debut collection of poetry is currently in the works.

Performances at the Event

The evening featured a diverse range of entertainment, both culturally and artistically. Hip-hop dancer Sacha Penna opened the night's performances with an interpretive dance, followed by a unique vocal-looping performance by member of the Emerging Musicians Program Bridgette Anderson. After an energetic and uplifting musical performance by former child soldier turned activist and motivational speaker Emmanuel Jal, local film maker Faith Howe's heart-warming and Barrie Film Festival award-winning short film "HOT BOX" was screened. The evening concluded with a spirited performance by local rock band, The Noolands.