

2024 Land Awards

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Arras Banquet & Event Space,
Vancouver, BC

xʷməθkwə́yəm, Skwxwú7mesh,
and səliłwətaʔ territories



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THE TYEE

In the coming weeks, *The Tyee* will publish profiles of all the recipients of the 2024 Land Awards.

→ thetyee.ca

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Land Awards

Welcome

We are grateful to gather in place and in person, on the territories of the xʷməθkʷəʔəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples — the stewards of these lands and waters since time immemorial. Tonight's venue overlooks Sehákw/səhaʔqʷ, a storied place on False Creek that's long been an important place of gathering, sharing, and celebration.

Presented by the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) every two years, the Land Awards celebrate leadership in sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use across BC. They honour people and projects that protect the lands and waters we love, demonstrate innovation and impact, forge new partnerships and stronger relationships, and show us a path to a better future.

We're thrilled to have you join us tonight. Whether or not you are an award nominee, we see your wisdom, efforts, and relationships as important to lifting us and each other up in this work. Thank you for celebrating with us. We hope the opportunity to connect with people over a meal, a drink, and our stories — plus maybe a photobooth moment — makes for a fun and inspiring evening!

Stacey Tyers

On behalf of the REFBC Board of Governors

Gala Program

5:30 Cocktail Reception

Music: Brejera

6:30 Opening and Welcome

Angela Sterritt Lu Algaxit Ts'im Xsblit, Emcee

Marny Point, x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam)

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate
Change Strategy

Mark Gifford, CEO, REFBC

7:00 Dinner

Three-course meal

7:30 Land Awards Presentations

'Cúagilákv Jess Housty, Poet

K.C. Hall, Artist

Project Awards

Real Estate

Food Sovereignty

Built Environment

Fresh Water

Land Use and Conservation

Individual Awards

Emerging Leader

Land Champion

9:15 Closing

Stacey Tyers and Anthony Bastiaanssen, Governors, REFBC

9:30 After Party

Stick around for mingling and photos. Bar closes at 10:30.

Personalities

Emcee



Angela Sterritt Lu Algaxit Ts'im Xsblist

Angela Sterritt is an award-winning investigative journalist and national bestselling author from the Wilp Wiik'aax of the Gitanmaax community within the Gitxsan Nation on her dad's side and from Bell Island, NL, on her maternal side. Sterritt worked as a television, radio, and digital journalist at CBC for more than a decade. She hosted the award-winning CBC original podcast *Land Back*. Her book *Unbroken* (Greystone Books), a work that is part memoir and part investigation into the murders and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls, became an instant national bestseller in 2023. *Unbroken* was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, one of Canada's oldest and most prestigious literary prizes. It was also a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for the best nonfiction book in Canada.

→ angelasterritt.com

Poet



'Cúagilákv Jess Housty

'Cúagilákv (Jess Housty) is a Haítzaqv parent, writer, and land-based educator from the community of Bella Bella, BC. They live in their unceded ancestral homelands, where they work in community building, food sovereignty, and leadership development. Housty is the author of a debut poetry collection, *Crushed Wild Mint* (Nightwood Editions), and a collection of essays forthcoming from Magic Canoe Press.

→ jesshousty.com

Artist



K.C. Hall

K.C. Hall was born in Bella Bella, in Heiltsuk Nation territory, on the central coast of BC. He belongs to the House of Wakas and descends from noted Heiltsuk artist Chief Robert Bell. His work blends graffiti art with traditional formline and Heiltsuk language and meaning to create a style of his own.

→ kchallart.com

Music



Brejera

Brejera is a Brazilian music ensemble that plays choro, samba, forró, baião, and other authentic Brazilian styles of music. The group has been active for over a decade and is composed of Mario Silva (seven-string guitar, vocals), Bruno Matos (pandeiro), Trevor Murray (cavaquinho), and Tobias Soley (clarinet, percussion).

Project Awards

Recognizing projects that raise the bar for sustainability, equity, and social justice in land use.

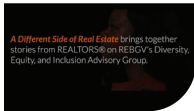
Real Estate

Finalists:



BC Northern Real Estate Board

Water and Land Sustainability Issues
Webinar Series



Greater Vancouver Realtors

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Campaign



Musqueam Indian Band

Musqueam Capital Corporation

leləm



Real Estate Institute of BC

Advancing Excellence Initiative

Food Sovereignty

Finalists:



Nawalakw

Nawalakw Community Farm



Rivershed Society of BC

s̓c̓e:ḥwəy̓əm/Salmon River –

Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program



Salish Sea Regenerative Farm Society

Salish Sea Regenerative Farm

Built Environment

Finalists:



BC Transit

Victoria HandyDART Centre



Climate Caucus

Managing Natural Assets: Handbook for Local Governments



Kambo Energy Group

Empower Me



NUQO Modular

Squamish Nation

Eskékwí7ch t'l'a Sp'ákw'us Place



Pembina Institute

BC Non-Profit Housing Association

City of Vancouver

Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation

Reframed Initiative and Lab

Fresh Water

Finalists:



Comox Valley Project Watershed Society

Kus-kus-sum: Unpave Paradise



Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society

Conservation Through Education



Living Lakes Canada

Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework



Nature Trust of BC

Enhancing Estuary Resilience: An Innovative Approach to Sustaining Fish and Fish Habitat in a Changing Climate



Watershed Watch Salmon Society

Connected Waters: Working Together for a Resilient Floodplain

Land Use and Conservation

Finalists:



Lílwat Forestry Ventures

Qwelǵwelústen/Mount Meager Landslide Restoration



Nadleh Whut'en First Nation Stellat'en First Nation Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC

Yun Ghunli (Defenders of the Land)



Nature-Based Solutions Foundation

IPCA Conservation Financing for Endangered Ecosystems



W̱SÁNEĆ School Board

ᑕᑭᑭᑭᑭ Revitalization Project

Individual Awards

Emerging Leader

Recognizing a person (age 35 or younger) who inspires and empowers others and is demonstrating early successes and the capacity to make wider change.



Sulatiye' Maiya Modeste

Maiya Modeste is the P'hwulhp (Garry Oak) Restoration Project Coordinator for the Stqeeye' Learning Society. Stqeeye' is an Indigenous-led organization undertaking land restoration and education around Xwaaqw'um, a Quw'utsun village site on Saltspring Island. Maiya's work to revitalize once-thriving Indigenous food systems is guided by traditional teachings and Indigenous ways of knowing and being. A gifted speaker, she is passionate about educating Indigenous youth about traditional foods, such as Speenhw (camas), and hopes to feed Elders traditional meals. Maiya also sits on the Board of Directors for the Quw'utsun' Cultural Connections Society.

Land Champion

Recognizing a person who has made a significant impact, brings communities together, and is certain to leave a remarkable legacy for future generations.



Xtli'li'ye Lydia Hwitsum

Lydia Hwitsum has advocated for Indigenous and human rights locally, nationally, and internationally. Lydia is from the Quw'utsun Nation and served 10 years as elected chief of the Cowichan Tribes on Vancouver Island. She has 30 years of experience in Indigenous leadership positions and has served the community in many capacities. Currently, Lydia is Co-chair of the BC-First Nations Water Table, Co-commissioner of the First Nations Water Caucus, a member of the Watershed Security Fund Joint Executive, a BC Treaty Commissioner, and a Director for the BC First Nations Justice Council. A bridge-builder, she previously co-chaired the Cowichan Watershed Board, a unique partnership between First Nations and local governments that promotes collaborative stewardship of the Cowichan and Koksilah watersheds. Lydia also sat on the Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle for the Healthy Watersheds Initiative. She speaks the Hul'q'umi'num' language and is guided by Cowichan values and teachings.

Judges

Nominations for Project Awards were judged by committees composed of community leaders and subject-matter experts. Each committee was chaired by an REFBC Governor and supported by a staff member (both non-voting). To evaluate projects, judges considered innovation, impact, collaboration, and engagement; sustainability, equity, and social justice; Indigenous self-determination and reconciliation; and climate mitigation and adaptation.

The winners of the Individual Awards were selected by a panel of past chairs of REFBC's Board of Governors.

Real Estate Committee

Chair: Anthony Bastiaanssen, Governor

Staff: Stephen Hui, Communications Manager



Lyndi Ainsworth

With a 17-year career as a realtor and managing broker at Engel & Völkers South Okanagan, Lyndi Ainsworth brings an extensive background in marketing and contract negotiations to the realm of real estate. Lyndi's contributions to the advancement of the real estate industry include serving as a past president of the Association of Interior Realtors.



Jill Atkey

Jill Atkey is the CEO of BC Non-Profit Housing Association, where she led the development of the Canadian Rental Housing Index and, working alongside key partners, the Rental Protection Fund, a new \$500-million initiative enabling non-profits to purchase rental buildings and secure their affordability in perpetuity.



Zoe Brook

Zoe Brook is a full-spectrum development manager. Zoe co-chairs the Urban Land Institute BC's Young Leaders Group, a committee of real estate professionals helping to shape the region's conversation in land use planning and development.



Erica Kavanaugh

Erica Kavanaugh is an accomplished realtor with a decade of experience, having served with distinction as a past director and past chair of the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB).



Aaron Pete

Aaron Pete is a graduate of UBC's Peter A. Allard School of Law, council member with Chawathil First Nation, manager of strategic relationships with Metis Nation BC, and host of the Bigger Than Me Podcast.

Food Sovereignty Committee

Chair: Toni Boot, Governor

Staff: Hedy Rubin, Grants Program Manager



Jacob Beaton

Jacob Beaton leads Tea Creek (Food Lands winner at the 2022 Land Awards), with an innovative new holistic education and training model that is award-winning, Indigenous-led, land-based, and culturally safe. Jacob traces his heritage to Haida Gwaii, Heiltsuk (Bella Bella), Gitxaala (Tsimshian), and the British Isles. He has the name Dzapł Gygyaawn Sgyiik (an eagle who gets it done right now) from the Gispaxloats tribe.



Robynne Edgar

Robynne Edgar is of Métis and Japanese ancestry and has worked in Indigenous health for over 20 years. She is currently the director of healthy living for the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (ISPARC), a trained herbalist, and founder of Wild About Plants.



Kevin Huang 黃儀軒

Kevin Huang 黃儀軒 is the cofounder and executive director of hua foundation, an organization — based in Vancouver — with the mission of strengthening the capacity among Asian diasporic youth, in solidarity with other communities, to challenge, change, and create systems for a more equitable and just future. Kevin currently serves on committees with Vancity Credit Union, Vancouver Foundation, and Metro Vancouver.



Darcy Smith

Darcy Smith has spent the last decade-plus working to support farmers and food systems. She lives and works on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. As BC Land Matching Program manager with Young Agrarians, she's worked with many new entrants, seasoned farmers, and farmland holders across the province. Darcy also edits BC Organic Grower.



Jared Qwustenuxun Williams

Qwustenuxun is a passionate Indigenous foods educator who spent his youth immersed in Salish culture. After graduating from culinary arts, he spent over a decade working in restaurants before moving back home to Quw'utsun to take the role of Elder's Kitchen manager.

Built Environment Committee

Chair: Ahmed Omran, Governor

Staff: Deanna Wing, Grants Program Manager



Cara Basil

Cara Basil is Secwépemc and grew up in Stuxwtéws. Cara is a planner with Sənala Planning Inc. and specializes in First Nations health governance and Indigenous health work. Outside of work, she is a graduate student focusing on community-based palliative care with Esk'etemc and UBCO. Cara currently resides in Tk'emlups te Secwépemc territory.



Djaka Blais

Djaka Blais is a social sector leader with 18 years of experience in philanthropy, government, and community mobilizing. Djaka is the inaugural executive director of Hogan's Alley Society, a Vancouver-based non-profit focused on advancing the social, political, economic, and cultural well-being of people of African descent (Black People) through the delivery of inclusive housing, built spaces, and culturally informed programming. Djaka is a founding director of the Foundation for Black Communities.



Cheeying Ho

Cheeying Ho brings over 25 years of experience in community planning, facilitation, engagement, and sustainability. Her work focuses on strategic planning and facilitating challenging and pressing multi-stakeholder processes.



Colin Mbugua

Colin Berg Mbugua is a Kenyan Canadian artist, researcher, and architectural designer. He holds master's and bachelor's degrees in architecture. Colin's practice engages multi-disciplinary contexts that draw from traditional architectural practices while engaging experimentation through collaboration and cross-cultural exchange.



Priyanka Roy Chakrabarti

Priyanka Roy Chakrabarti is the lands and housing manager at Tsawwassen First Nation, where she helps manage the housing program and various community planning projects. As an architect and planner, Priyanka is an impact-oriented strategist who is passionate about systems change.

Fresh Water Committee

Chair: Mavis Underwood, Tiwenomot, Governor

Staff: Jennifer Archer, Watershed Security Senior Projects Specialist



Oliver Brandes

Oliver M. Brandes is an economist and lawyer by training and a trans-disciplinarian by design. He serves as co-director of the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, based at the University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies, where he leads the award-winning POLIS Water Sustainability Project.

**Deana Machin**

Deana Machin is a member of the Syilx (Okanagan) Nation and grew up in her home community along Okanagan Lake near Vernon, BC, which has grounded her strong values about First Nations' rights to and roles in the governance and management of their lands, waters and resources. Deana is currently the senior Indigenous advisor with the Indigenous Watersheds Initiative.

**Anna Warwick Sears**

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears is the executive director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, a watershed agency focused on water sustainability, where she has worked on water and climate change issues since 2006. She also serves on the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control, Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, and UBC School of Applied Science's Dean's Advisory Committee.

**Xsaxgyoo – Gordon Sterritt**

Gord Sterritt has been involved in fisheries management for 24 years. His work has carried him from the headwaters of the Skeena and its various tributaries to the Fraser watershed, where he now works as the executive director of the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance.

**Kristen Walters**

Kristen Walters is the director of the Fraser River Salmon Conservation Program at Raincoast Conservation Foundation, which implements scientific research, habitat restoration, and policy analysis to support the recovery of wild salmon populations and habitats in the Fraser River watershed. Kristen holds an MSc in biological sciences from Simon Fraser University.

Land Use and Conservation Committee

Chair: Leslie Dickie, Governor

Staff: Jen McCaffrey, Grants Program Manager



Lina Azeez

Lina Azeez is the habitat programs director at Watershed Watch Salmon Society, a science-based charity that advocates for BC's wild salmon and the waters in which they live. She enjoys collaborating across diverse interest groups, bringing the concept of "water for life" to the forefront of decision-making in the Lower Mainland.



Gwen Bridge

A member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Gwen Bridge has over 20 years of experience in providing advice, developing strategies, and managing natural resource-related projects for First Nations and their partners. Gwen teaches courses in ethical space and Indigenous leadership at University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills, is an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia, and frequently provides ethical space training to many levels of government.



Deborah Curran

Deborah Curran is a professor at the University of Victoria in the Faculty of Law and School of Environmental Studies (Faculty of Social Sciences), and the executive director of the Environmental Law Centre. Deborah was named Land Champion at the 2016 Land Awards.



Curtis Rattray – Nenh glunyadz

Curtis Rattray is from the Crow clan, Tahltan Nation. Curtis lives in Dease Lake/Tat'ah, where he makes a living through a mixed economic approach of traditional activities and operating his own business. He works with youth, teaching them to prepare for their future, and he also provides leadership in the community around climate change adaptations and food sovereignty.



Jesse Stoeppler

Jesse Stoeppler is co-executive director of the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition. Mentored by Hereditary Chief and Matriarch Yaga'lahl (Dora B. Wilson), he embraces Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en culture and has been actively participating in title and rights and clan governance as a member of Wilp Spookwx (Lax Gibuu/Gitumden).

Individual Awards Committee



Jim McCaughan

Jim McCaughan is a past president of the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board and Chilliwack and District Real Estate Board. He served six years on the Real Estate Council of BC and 11 years on the Real Estate Errors and Omissions Insurance Corporation board. Jim was the 2012–13 president of the BC Real Estate Association.



Ramona Faust

Ramona Faust retired in 2022 after 14 years elected to local government at the Regional District of Central Kootenay. Previously, Ramona worked as the executive director of a social service organization and the cofounder and general manager of the Harrop-Procter Community Forest. Currently, she volunteers for the West Kootenay Watershed Collaborative, Climate Caucus, and Central Kootenay Food Policy Council.



Roberta Stewart

Roberta Stewart is a partner at HSJ Lawyers LLP in Prince George, practicing corporate and commercial law. Roberta loves working with her clients and mentoring new and junior lawyers.

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped shape the 2024 Land Awards Gala. Truly, we couldn't have done it without you!

Vendors

Event planning

Clearwater Events

Catering

Arras Banquet & Event Space

Audiovisual

Showmax

Videography (event)

Butter Studios

Videography (awards)

Cheyenne Bergenhenegouwen

Photography (event)

Sarah Race Photography

Photography (booth)

The Near and Dear

Trophies

Eclipse Awards

Branding

Injagar

Graphic design

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Gifts



Crushed Wild Mint

By Jess Housty
(Nightwood Editions)



We Are of Water

Illustrated by
Chenoa Gao
(Healthy Watersheds Initiative)

Special Thanks

REFBC Board of Governors

Anthony Bastiaanssen
Toni Boot
Leslie Dickie
Andre Gravelle
Ahmed Omran
Stacey Tyers
Mavis Underwood, Tiwenomot

REFBC Indigenous Community

Leaders Circle

Norm Allard Jr.
Marilyn Baptiste
Lana Lowe
Taylor Wale (Luu'Maja)



The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) is a philanthropic organization working to advance sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate practices across BC. We fund projects, connect people, and share knowledge.

Real Estate Foundation of BC

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