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Seattle Parks Foundation and Vulcan Real Estate Named 2010 Downtown Champions

At its 52nd annual meeting tomorrow, the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) will present the 2010 Downtown Champion Award to the Seattle Parks Foundation and Vulcan Real Estate.

Each year the DSA presents the award to an individual, company or organization in recognition of initiatives that support the DSA's mission to champion a healthy, vibrant urban core. This year's recipients – Seattle Parks Foundation and Vulcan Real Estate – are being recognized jointly for their vision and leadership in the emergence of Downtown's South Lake Union neighborhood, one of Seattle's fastest growing.

"This year we've really seen Downtown's South Lake Union neighborhood come alive thanks to years of work by many," said DSA President Kate Joncas. "However, the work of Vulcan Real Estate and the Seattle Parks Foundation really stand out as great examples of what can be accomplished with a clear vision and strong leadership."

In making its selection, the DSA cited the early vision of Paul G. Allen's Vulcan Real Estate which spearheaded the opportunity to foster a model neighborhood which blends the right mix of new housing, retail and restaurants and other amenities, as well as office space and life science research facilities, and attractive public spaces in creating a community where people want to live, work, shop and play.

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The DSA also salutes the Seattle Parks Foundation for its vision to create a recreational hub at the south end of Lake Union that not only fosters a more sustainable urban environment, but that creates a shared sense of community including a focus on local history that weaves nautical heritage into the community tapestry.

Scheduled to participate with the event sponsors – Lane Powell PC and Washington Federal – in the award presentation are Kristina Barnes, South Lake Union resident and small-business owner; Leonard Garfield, MOHAI executive director; Charles Royer, former Seattle mayor; Victoria Schoenburg, Seattle Parks & Recreation; and John Slattery, PhD, UW School of Medicine.

Past Downtown Champion Award recipients include FareStart, Seattle Art Museum, Plymouth Housing Group and Pike Place Market PDA.

The DSA annual meeting will take place at 4pm tomorrow (Wednesday, June 23) at The 5th Avenue Theatre.

In addition to Lane Powell PC and Washington Federal, event sponsors include Seattle Children's Research Institute, Hines, McCullough Hill PS and ShareBuilder from ING DIRECT.

About DSA

Established in 1958, the Downtown Seattle Association (<http://www.downtownseattle.com>) is a member-based non-profit organization that champions a healthy, vibrant urban core. By advocating on behalf of business, non-profit, arts and residential interests throughout Downtown Seattle, DSA ensures that Downtown is a world-class place to live, work, shop and play.

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