



## Six Mayor's Medals Awarded at Thinklandia Sunday Night

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – On Sunday night, six Mayor's Medals were awarded at Thinklandia, Victoria's Creative Festival. A collaboration with Thinklandia, the Mayor's Medals are a crowd-sourced opportunity for people in Victoria to recognize their fellow citizens who might fly under the radar of other established award and recognition programs.

"We created the Mayor's Medals in 2015 to give Victorians an opportunity to celebrate each other," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "The pilot was such a success with an overwhelming number of nominations last year that we've decided to do this annually at Thinklandia."

A simple online nomination form allows citizens to nominate each other. This year, a nomination committee co-appointed by the City and Thinklandia again received a large number of submissions. Medals are awarded in the categories of Arts, Disruption, Transformation, Public, Environment, and Legacy.

"I am excited that we get to do this. There are so many people doing meaningful, important, always challenging, often unorthodox work in Victoria, and collectively they are such a huge component of our character as a City," said Thinklandia organizer Joey MacDonald. "Living in a city so full of ideas is challenging, you want to see more ideas expressed, given space to be tried, to succeed, to fail if needed. These awards recognize people who take risks, who have vision, who do the work that really makes a city a place where your creative contribution can count towards something."

This year's Mayor's Medals winners include:

**Arts** - Janet Munsil, Artistic Director of Intrepid Theatre. Committed to mentorship, gender equality, experimental theatre. Playwright and theatre festival creator.

**Disruption** - Jeff Hopkins, Founder and principle educator at Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry, an independent high school known for transformation educational approaches.

**Transformation** - Natalie Justin, Major organizer of Caribbean food, music and cultural events through Strictly Roots Entertainment. Caribbean food restaurateur.

**Public** - Umbrella Society, Umbrella actively promotes understanding, acceptance and support for Vancouver Island people affected by substance use and mental health issues through understanding, nonjudgmental acceptance, and support.

**Environment** - Gillian Montgomery, Chairwoman and chapter manager of the Vancouver Island chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. Dedicated environmental steward and campaigner for clean oceans.

**Legacy** - Tent City, A housing movement that resulted in almost 300 units of government-owned supportive housing units that are here to stay in our community long after the last tent was packed up.

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**For More Information:**

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