



EMBARGO PRESS RELEASE

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**THE WINNIPEG BUSINESS COMMUNITY CELEBRATED AT THE 12TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF WINNIPEG AWARDS
2021 Spirit of Winnipeg Award Winners Announced**

June 22, 2021, WINNIPEG, MB - At the 12th annual Spirit of Winnipeg Awards Gala on Wednesday evening, The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce proudly acknowledged 25 outstanding organizations making Winnipeg a better city, nine of which were voted by local judges as this year's winners. This past year has been a year of growth and innovation for our community, which is why it was more important than ever before to highlight Winnipeg's incredible businesses.

12th Annual Spirit of Winnipeg Award Winners

GoodLocal | Rising Star (Start Up) Award

Seeing the desperate need, Ibrahim "Obby" Khan and Ali Esmail created GoodLocal— a multi vendor online platform designed with "supporting local" built into its code. Think Amazon meets Etsy but 100% local and with door-to-door delivery.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- Body Measure
- iMaQPress Inc.

First Rank | Technology Award

First Rank is more than Search Engine Optimization consultants, they provide a full suite of gap analysis, content creation, site speed improvements, outreach to digital media and news outlets, and online reputation management.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- Solara
- Tilt

Beeproject Apiaries | Environment and Energy Award

Beeproject Apiaries is a sustainable beekeeping company that's part of a movement to help bees thrive in urban centres where people increasingly live. Installing and maintaining beehives on rooftops and backyards across Winnipeg, they're not only increasing the honeybee populations that support our gardens and trees - they're helping people change their gardening and lawn care practices to reduce harm to our ecosystem.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- ArtsJunktion
- Green Kids Inc.

Brandish | Workplace Culture Award

When you fuse business strategy and brand strategy for a living, you quickly realize the greatest value an organization has are its people. Brandish started from that insight in designing its corporate structure, breaking and restructuring almost every standard agency practice to create a workplace where merit is celebrated over safety, where value isn't associated with hierarchy.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- Gordon Food Service
- Think Shift

Rossbrook House | Non-profit and Social Enterprise Award

Rossbrook House is a neighbourhood drop-centre by the corner of Ross and Sherbrooke and was the dream and creation of the young people Sister Gerry met around her inner-city home - the youth who craved belonging as much as food and shelter from Winnipeg's tough streets.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- Career Trek
- Health Sciences Centre Foundation

Qaumajuq | Design and Building Award

Qaumajuq is an innovative new museum, home of the largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art in the world. This first-of-its-kind centre connects to the Winnipeg Art Gallery on all levels, creating a 185,000-square-foot cultural campus in the heart of downtown Winnipeg. It is bright, it is lit.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- Scatliff Miller Murray
- Treaty One Development Corporation

EcoPoxy | Trade Award

EcoPoxy is a low odour, bio-based, toxin-free resin. Created in 2009 by a team from the Oak Bluff Hutterite colony outside Morris, Manitoba, EcoPoxy allows industrial woodworkers, home-based artists, and everyone in between to turn former waste wood into stunning furniture, artworks, jewelry and countless other goods.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- Gordon Food Service
- Smak Dab

Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture | #ReimagineWPG Award **NEW CATEGORY**

Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture connects people to their environment by creating holistic landscape architectural designs for community spaces. From trails, streetscapes, parks,

playgrounds, to comprehensive community placemaking and engagement, LBLA incorporates environmental sustainability into all their projects.

The other two finalists in this category were:

- The Dream Factory
- Cocoabeans

Payworks | Spirit of Winnipeg Award

“Doing right by people” is the guiding purpose that drives Payworks, a payroll services company with workforce management solutions. Co-founded in Winnipeg by Barb Gamey, John Lowewn and Dave Johnston, Payworks is a leader when it comes to community and employee initiatives. Their philosophy is simple - take care of each other, their customers, and their communities in a sustainable way.

Nominations for the 2022 Spirit of Winnipeg Awards will open in late 2021.

About The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce:

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce uses its position as a community leader, a member business supporter and a public policy influencer to build a city where industry prosperity and community wellness grow.

Media Contact:

Jess Korol
Communications & Program Coordinator
jkorol@winnipeg-chamber.com
204-797-4150

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EVENT LOG IN DETAILS FOR MEDIA

Wednesday, June 23, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (CDT)

HOW TO JOIN:

<https://encore.streamme.ca/SpiritWpg2021>

PROGRAM:

6:00 p.m.: Attendees login
6:30 p.m.: Program begins
Greetings, Shreeraj Patel, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Board Chair
Performance by Kelly Bado, singer/songwriter
6:45 p.m.: Opening Remarks
Faith Fundal, host of CBC Manitoba's Up to Speed
6:55 p.m.: Presentation of Awards
8:30 p.m.: Event concludes