



You're my INSPIRATION



Thursday, May 26, 2016
TCU Place

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2016 Nominees

Arts, Culture & Heritage Award

Recognizes the artistic achievement of women whose creative work or support of the arts, culture, and heritage inspires our community.



Denyse Klette

Based in Saskatoon, Denyse Klette is a mostly self-taught artist known for her murals and landscapes, her use of colour, and her depictions of cultural diversity. Her creative spirit encourages her family – including her husband Stephan, two adult daughters and now a grandchild. A professional artist for 30 years, she continues to work almost every day in her studio. She recently completed 62 images for Macmillan Publishers for an adult colouring book set to be published in 30 countries. Her images are licensed to an international fabric company, a puzzle company and for cell phone skins. Through her sale of 'The Girls' art series, Denyse has raised thousands of dollars for breast cancer research.



Jeanette Lynes

Jeanette Lynes is the inaugural director of the Master of Fine Arts in Writing program at the University of Saskatchewan. She has served as a volunteer on the board of the Sage Hill Writing Experience and is currently on the board of Jack Pine Press. She was Writer in Residence at the Saskatoon Public Library in 2005-2006. She has authored seven books of poetry and one novel, *The Factory Voice*, which was longlisted for the prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her poetry has received the Bliss Carmen Award and been shortlisted for SK Book Awards and the Pat Lowther Award. Jeanette brings a sophisticated sensibility to telling women's stories, all while promoting the province's arts and culture to a wide-ranging audience.



Marylou Mintram

Originally from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in MB, Marylou Mintram is an energetic and accomplished cultural instructor, fashion designer, capacity builder, mother, facilitator and leader with a passion for social change. Her media experience has contributed to cultural awareness and her productions have received awards at media festivals. She is a co-founder of the fashion label Little Bow-tikh and executive director of Her 4 Directions fashion incubator. Through her community involvement, she serves on multiple boards including the Saskatoon Health Region's First Nations & Métis Patient and Family Care Advisory Council. She also volunteers for causes such as Walking With Our Sisters, and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. Marylou is a strong role model for women in Saskatoon's Aboriginal community.



Helen Oro

From the Pelican Lake First Nation, and the founder of Helen Oro Designs, Helen's spark of entrepreneurship came after studying aesthetics and opening her own nail studio in Chitek Lake. She then became beauty/fashion editor of *Native Max* magazine, where she featured the work of many young Canadians. She is a talented beader – her work has been showcased at different fashion weeks and events, including New York Fashion Week and Denver Colorado's In the City Fashion Show. She was selected for the Melbourne Fashion Festival in Australia, and participated in the Indigenous Runway Project in New Zealand. Even in the face of fear and obstacles, Helen always shows courage and holds on to her purpose.

Entrepreneurship Award

Recognizes successful women entrepreneurs who have established strong business ventures, and who are committed to giving back to our community.



Mackenzie Firby

Mackenzie Firby was raised in Kenaston, Saskatchewan and obtained her Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan. She has worked for SaskTel and Hershey's, where she received awards for her customer service, sales and teamwork. Her love of fashion and entrepreneurial spirit then inspired her to open Two Fifty Two Boutique – a women's clothing store in the Willowgrove neighbourhood. She has since excelled at sourcing designers not previously available in Saskatoon and providing her customers with top-notch service, all while she supports local charitable events. Mackenzie's passion, motivation and relationship-building have quickly earned her an exceptional reputation among her staff, her clients and the Saskatoon business community.



Brett Francis

Brett Francis is a public speaker and mental health advocate who comes armed with passion and personal experience. She works to instill pride in those dealing with mental health challenges and disabilities, because of her first-hand experience with overcoming the frustrations and barriers that can go along with those challenges. Brett has inspired thousands of people struggling to feel "normal" through her coaching, seminars and media appearances, as host of her radio show *Not Broken Radio*, and as author of her book, *Not Broken*. She recently hosted and produced a new TV series called *Breaking the Barriers* and is working on season two.



Chantal Hounjet

Full of energy and positivity, Chantal Hounjet combines a love for her community with an entrepreneurial flair for business. She co-founded The Princess Shop – a non-profit that provides an enhanced high school graduation experience and mentorship for female students in need. The Princess Shop is celebrating its ninth year in operation. She also founded Fresh Living, which has grown to become the largest home staging and eco-friendly cleaning company in Saskatoon. In 2015, Fresh Living expanded with a second location in Grande Prairie, Alberta. She is a natural leader who inspires huge loyalty among her employees and invests in their success. Chantal also sits on the board of the Saskatoon Fashion & Design Festival.



Malene Jorgensen

Malene Jorgensen is an entrepreneur, speaker, author and startup coach. She owns an international publishing company called One Door Press, and founded a web magazine for women called Women, Tech and Startups. Malene has written a large portfolio of published works, including books in over 50 countries. She created a startup-inspired podcast called "Lessons from an Entrepreneur." Malene is a member of the Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs, and has been nominated for CBC's Future 40 under 40, and for the Rethink Award for Internet Week Denmark.



Christie Peters

Christie Peters is an executive chef and owner of two restaurants in Saskatoon's Riversdale neighbourhood. During her chef's training, she was influenced by relationships with local farmers and foragers. Christie opened The Hollows in October 2011, using the historic Golden Dragon building with its existing furniture and vintage smallwares. Primal Pasta opened in February 2015, and both restaurants are centred on environmental sustainability, local procurement, and culinary excellence. Christie is a community builder who employs and mentors other women, and a collaborator who provides space within her businesses for other entrepreneurs, the Local Bar, Anita's Perogies, and Soup Sisters.

Athletics Award

Recognizes women whose inspirational athletic leadership in sport, fitness, or recreational programs benefits our community.

Sponsor: Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon



Jessie Buydens

Jessie Buydens is a law partner at Scott, Phelps & Mason and offers legal advice for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan. Since 1999 she has been a Wild Oats Women rugby player, and since 2001 she has coached its junior girls program. For more than 10 years, she has been on the senior women's provincial rugby team. In women's football, she is a founding member, player and past president of the Saskatoon Valkyries, and a Team Canada member at the 2010 and 2013 World Championships. Her latest competitive sport is powerlifting – placing in the top three at the national, North American and Commonwealth levels. An accomplished lawyer and a devoted mother, Jessie always arrives with energy and a positive attitude.



Erica Gavel

Erica Gavel is devoted to giving back and promoting the benefits of sport to young women, especially those with disabilities. From 2009 to 2012, she played basketball for the U of S Huskies. After a serious knee injury, her career was cut short. However, she overcame adversity and discovered her passion for basketball could be transferred to the wheelchair game. Since taking up the sport in 2012, she has earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Alabama, represented Canada at the 2015 U25 Women's World Championships, and won a silver medal at the 2015 Toronto ParaPan Am Games. At these games, her team qualified for the 2016 Paralympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.



Muriel Gieni

Muriel Gieni has the ability to touch many lives by connecting to athletes, regardless of age. As a master athlete in track and field, she has captured gold medals in hurdles and long jump at the Canadian Masters Indoor Championships in the Women 55+ age class; set new records in Saskatchewan and Canada in hurdles, long jump and triple jump; ranked fifth in the world and first in Canada for indoor long jump and pole vault; ranked sixth in the world and first in Canada in outdoor pole vault; and ranked tenth in the world and third in Canada in Women's 55+ in the 60m. Throughout her endeavours, Muriel readily demonstrates encouragement and support to other female athletes.



Jordana Jacobson

Jordana Jacobson is a three-time national level winner in the sport of women's bodybuilding and a fierce competitor. A mother of two young daughters, she is a driven business owner, mentor and fitness competitor. She volunteers for a number of community organizations and events, including the Silver Spoon Dinner and the Saskatchewan Amateur Bodybuilding Association (SABBA) executive. She has won multiple awards for her success in business and fitness including the 2015 SABEX Customer Service Award and the 2015 SABBA Leadership Award. Jordana is passionate about supporting the success of women throughout the province. She takes time to mentor both athletes and business owners, believing strongly in the empowerment of women.



Bobbi Janzen

Bobbi Janzen is a wife, mother of two, and visually impaired athlete who inspires many other athletes. Her career and lifestyle have been intertwined with the fitness world for the past 15 years. When told she would not be able to play conventional sports, she pressed on and found ways. She has instructed the types of fitness classes she enjoys and made them accessible to individuals of any ability. She has competed in sports such as goal ball, powerlifting and cross country skiing. She enjoys spending time with her family and her seeing-eye dog, lifting weights and using the spin bike. Bobbi is a strong believer that you can do anything; you may just have to do it differently.



Janis Shirriff

Janis Shirriff is a well-known swimmer, triathlete, volunteer, coach, mentor and mother. She has been on top of the world in masters swimming since surviving a blood clot in her leg in 2010. She was told she might not be able to compete again but her determination to prove otherwise took over. She has been a Canadian Masters Swim Champion since 2009, ranked in the top 10 in the world since 2011 (including all-time top rankings of sixth and seventh) and in 2012 she won gold and set a new record at World Championships in Italy. At the same time, Janis volunteers for the Saskatoon Road Runners Association, Horizon 100 Cycling Club, the Saskatchewan Marathon and Swim Saskatchewan.



Carolyn Schwab

Carolyn Schwab is the owner and CEO of the award-winning Changes Salon & Spa in Saskatoon. Carolyn started her business 25 years ago, with only three employees and a vision. Her entrepreneurial spirit has persevered, through fire, through changing industry trends, and through major spa expansions. Carolyn is quick to celebrate her 26-member staff, to mentor them, and reward their successes. Changes Salon & Spa has been recognized as one of the Top 50 Spas in Canada, with a Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce SABEX nomination, and the Torch Award from the Better Business Bureau of Saskatchewan.



Melissa Squire

Melissa Squire is a fashion designer with a self-titled line called Badass Pretty Clothing. By using unique details, colours, prints and accessories, her designs reflect a 1950s pin-up style with an edgy rockabilly attitude. She is also owner of Alchemy Clothing and Salon – home to tattoo artists, piercers, hairstylists and makeup artists. Women who feel self-conscious in mainstream fashion offerings have found joy and pride wearing pieces designed by Melissa. She is described as a shining example of combining generous community involvement while still operating a thriving business. Melissa is on the board of the Saskatoon Pride Festival, and is a strong advocate for eco-friendly practices in business.



Alicia Soulier

As the owner and creative director of Capelli Salon Studio, Alicia serves as a role model for women in the salon industry. Since she opened Capelli at the age of 24, it has twice been nominated for Canadian Salon Design of the Year. She was also honoured with the Mirror Award for Saskatchewan Hairstylist of the Year in 2014 and 2015. She has been a lead stylist for Saskatchewan Fashion Week for the past four years, and worked backstage at New York Fashion Week in 2014. Alicia has had the privilege of styling various celebrities for local charities, events, magazines and billboards. In addition, she generously volunteers her time teaching techniques to hair school students across the province.

Photo Credit: HEATHER FRITZ

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