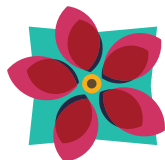


# 2022 Land Awards Gala

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Anvil Centre, New Westminster, BC

Presented by the Real Estate Foundation of BC



REAL ESTATE  
**Foundation**  
OF BC

# Many Thanks to Our Partners

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**Presenting  
partners**

**Vancity**



**THE CIRCLE LE CERCLE**

ON PHILANTHROPY AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN CANADA  
SUR LA PHILANTHROPIE ET LES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES AU CANADA

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**THE TYEE**



**#LandAwards  
@REFBC**



## Welcome to the 2022 Land Awards Gala!

*We are grateful to gather in place and in person, on the unceded territories of hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əṁ-speaking peoples, including the Qayqayt, Musqueam, Kwantlen, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Tsawwassen, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations — the stewards of these lands and waters since time immemorial. Now also known as New Westminster, this site along the staləw̓ has always been an important place for people to gather, rest, and celebrate.*

The Land Awards celebrate big ideas and bold leadership in advancing sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate practices across BC. They honour people and projects that raise the bar for innovation, forge new partnerships, and advance our thinking about our relationships with the lands, waters, and built environments we are all connected to.

We're thrilled to have you join us tonight. Whether or not you are an award nominee, you've been invited because 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 dance or a photobooth moment — makes for a fun and inspiring evening!

**Roberta Stewart**

Chair, 2022 Land Awards Committee

# Gala Program

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**5:30**

**Cocktail Reception**

Music guests: Brejera

**6:30**

**Opening and Welcome**

Fred Lee, Emcee

Stacey Ferguson, Qayqayt First Nation

Jonathan X. Coté, Mayor, City of New Westminster

Mark Gifford, CEO, REFBC

Tzo'kam

**7:00**

**Dinner**

Three-course meal, prepared by Truffles Fine Foods

**8:00**

**Land Awards Presentations**

Elliott Slinn, Poet Laureate, City of New Westminster

**Project Awards**

Built Environment

Real Estate

Food Lands

Fresh Water

Land Use & Conservation

Shawna Davis, Author — a reading from *Majagalee: The Language of Seasons*

**Individual Awards**

Emerging Leader

Land Champion

**10:00**

**Closing**

**10:10**

**After Party**

Stick around for live music, mingling, photos, and dancing. Bar closes at 11:00.

# Personalities

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## Emcee

### Fred Lee

Fred Lee's sense of humour and unique style makes him Metro Vancouver's "Man About Town." The social butterfly steps out and shares with readers all of Vanhattan's red-carpet parties, must-attend galas, and fabulous fundraisers. In 2020, UBC awarded Lee the President's Staff Award for Advancing Diversity & Inclusion.



## Poet

### Elliott Slinn

Elliott Slinn was named New Westminster's fifth (and youngest) Poet Laureate in 2021. Slinn is also a singer-songwriter whose first single, "It's You," was featured on Apple Music's Hot Tracks list and in *BeatRoute* magazine. He is currently working on his first book of poetry and aims to record more music in the future.



## Author and Artist

### Shawna Davis

Shawna Davis is Laxskiik (Eagle Clan) from Wilps Sakum Higookxw of the Gitksan Nation, with a Nisga'a father clan. She has been practicing beadwork for four years and is grateful for the opportunity to tell stories through the medium of beadwork. She was born and raised in the Northwest Coast of what is currently known as BC and now lives in New Hazelton with her family.



## Music



### **Tzo'kam**

Tzo'kam means “chickadee” and “visitors are coming” in the Stl'atl'imx language. Flora Wallace, from Xaxlip (near Lillooet), her children, and grandchildren have sung together at community events for many years. Tzo'kam sings songs of the Stl'atl'imx that Flora learned as a child. Today, Tzo'kam continues to teach, share, and maintain a tradition that has been kept alive by dedicated elders.



### **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 Finalists

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## Land Awards

Recognizing projects that raise the bar for innovation, collaboration, equity, and sustainability.

### Built Environment

- BOMA BC (*Greater Victoria District 2030*)
- Community Garden Builders (*Temporary Community Gardens*)
- Fraser Basin Council (*First Nations Home EnergySave*)
- Tsawwassen First Nation (*Tsawwassen First Nation Comprehensive Housing Strategy*)

### Real Estate

- Association of Interior Realtors (*Building Climate Resilience in the Okanagan: A Homeowner's Resource Guide*)
- British Columbia Lung Foundation (*Radon in Real Estate: Transforming BC's Indoor Environments*)
- Soroptimist International of Vancouver and Purpose Driven Development (*Housing for Women by Women*)
- Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (*Real Estate Energy Efficiency Program*)

### Food Lands

- B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation (*Farmland Advantage*)
- Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (*KPU Farm Schools Program*)
- Liíwat Nation (*Qwaíímak Nlepcáíten/Mosquito Garden*)
- Tea Creek (*Tea Creek Farm*)

### **Fresh Water**

- First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia (*Water for Fish*)
- Okanagan Nation Alliance (*Developing Water Responsibilities Plans Using the Syilx Methodology*)
- Skeena Knowledge Trust (*Knowledge Mobilization Across the Skeena Watershed*)
- Stqeeye' Learning Society (*Xwaaqw'um Village Watershed Restoration*)
- Wildsight (*Columbia River Field School*)

### **Land Use and Conservation**

- Gathering Voices Society (*Tsilhqot'in Wildfire Management Project*)
- Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society (*Wildlife Habitat Stewards*)
- Province of BC, Lil'wat Nation, and N'Quatqua First Nation (*Tenquille Lake Visitor Use Management Project*)
- Stewardship Centre for British Columbia (*Green Shores*)



**MACKENZIE**  
Investments

*Thank you to Mackenzie Investments for supporting our project awards as well as tonight's beverages.*



# Individual Winners

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## Emerging Leader Award

Recognizing an individual (aged 35 and under) who is demonstrating early successes and the capacity to make wider change.

### **Taylor Wale** (*Gitksan Watershed Authorities*)

Taylor Wale is Lax Gibuu from Wilps xGwoimtxw and works as a fisheries biologist with the Gitksan Watershed Authorities, where she plays a key role in watershed stewardship and fisheries management in Gitksan territory. Wale has a BSc in natural resources conservation and an MSc in forestry from UBC, where she was recognized with the Peter H. Pearse Forestry Award and Skills Award for Aboriginal Youth. She honours the Elders and role models who have guided her and serves as a mentor to youth in her community. Wale volunteers as a girls' basketball coach and plays for the Gitksan Mystics. Through her professional and volunteer work, she sets an incredible example for youth and anyone working to protect and restore land and water and uphold Indigenous rights and title.



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*Thank you to The Circle on  
Philanthropy and Aboriginal  
Peoples in Canada for supporting  
the Emerging Leader Award.*

## Land Champion Award

*Recognizing an individual who has made a significant impact on land use in BC.*

### **Wayne McCrory** (*Valhalla Wilderness Society and Valhalla Foundation for Ecology*)

Legendary conservationist and professional biologist Wayne McCrory has dedicated his life to protecting large and small tracts of ecologically important land across BC. McCrory is a founder of the Valhalla Wilderness Society and the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology. He is also the foremost expert on human-bear conflict and conservation in Western Canada. Over five decades, McCrory, his VWS colleagues, First Nations, and many others protected the Khutzymateen/K'tzim-a-deen Grizzly Sanctuary, KITASOO Spirit Bear Conservancy, Valhalla Provincial Park, and Goat Range Provincial Park. His research led to the creation, by the Xeni Gwet'in, of the first wild horse preserve in Western Canada. McCrory worked with the Foundation to protect the Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary and Jaš Chinook Salmon Nature Sanctuary. For 30 years, he worked with many others to end BC's grizzly bear trophy hunt. McCrory's leadership has created a rich legacy for BC and the world and has inspired countless people to stand up for bears, wildlands, and endangered species.



**Vancity**

*Thank you to Vancity Credit Union for supporting the Land Champion Award.*

# Judging: Project Awards

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Each Land Awards category is judged by a committee of community leaders and experts selected by the Real Estate Foundation of BC and chaired by an REFBC Governor (non-voting).

## **Built Environment Committee**

*Chair: Andre Gravelle, Governor*

*Staff: Sherry Yano, Director of Grants and Community Engagement*

### **Emilie K. Adin**

Emilie Adin is the City of New Westminster's Director of Planning and Development Services, an Adjunct Professor at the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, and the President-Elect of the Planning Institute of BC. Adin has written and presented widely on a variety of planning issues, including under the moniker "PlanGirl."



### **Gwen Bridge**

Gwen Bridge is CEO of Gwen Bridge Consulting Ltd. Bridge works with Indigenous organizations and nations and their partners to develop and implement agreements for natural resource management and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to foster equity and recognition of Indigenous rights and ways of knowing.



### **Cheeying Ho**

Cheeying Ho is the Executive Director of WCS Engagement + Planning (Whistler Centre for Sustainability) and has over 20 years of experience in community planning, engagement, and sustainability. Her work focuses on facilitating challenging multi-stakeholder processes, strategic planning, and identifying and delivering unique processes such as a regional food recovery strategy and business start-up programs.



### **Divine Ndemeye**

Divine Ndemeye is a designer, writer, and public speaker. She holds a master's in landscape architecture and is the recipient of the 2020 National Olmsted Scholar award. Divine is cofounder of the Black+Indigenous Design Collective. She is the creator, host, and producer of the Design Unmuted podcast, a platform that elevates marginalized voices in design, art, and all things creative.



### **Patrick R. Stewart**

Patrick Stewart is the Founding Principal of Patrick R. Stewart Architect, a full-service architectural firm, with a First Nations community development focus. Stewart is a Nisga'a architect with many firsts. Stewart was the first Aboriginal architect to become president of the Architectural Institute of BC. Stewart is also the first Aboriginal person in BC to own and operate an architectural firm.



## **Real Estate Committee**

*Chair: Jim McCaughan, Former Governor*

*Staff: Stephen Hui, Communications Manager*

### **Darlene Hyde**

Darlene Hyde is the former CEO of the BC Real Estate Association. She previously served as executive director of the Commercial Real Estate Development Association of Metro Vancouver, executive vice president for the New Car Dealers Association of BC, and senior vice president for ICBC. Darlene is a former chair of the Insurance Council of BC and Westminster Savings Credit Union.



### **Tony Joe**

Tony Joe has been a licensed Realtor since 1991 and has received the rarified RE/MAX Circle of Legends designation. A three-term director and 2008 president of the Victoria Real Estate Board, Joe is currently an instructor for the BC Real Estate Association as well as the BC Financial Services Authority. He is a certified coach for RRI and hosts *The Whole Home Show* on CFX 1070.



### **Kelly Lerigny**

Kelly Lerigny is a Realtor with RE/MAX Nyda Realty in Chilliwack. She is a former chair of REFBC's Board of Governors and a former president of the BC Real Estate Association. Lerigny serves on the City of Chilliwack's Affordable Housing and Development Advisory Committee. She believes strongly in giving back and has been a volunteer her whole adult life.



### **Dori Munday Lionello**

Dori Lionello has been an award-winning Realtor with Royal LePage Penticton for 15 years. She is Penticton-born and raised and served as president of the South Okanagan Real Estate Board. She is mom to two boys, Lucas and Logan.



## **Food Lands Committee**

*Chair: Tina Lange, Governor*

*Staff: Hedy Rubin, Grants Program Manager*

### **Toni Boot**

Toni Boot is in the last year of her first term as Mayor of the District of Summerland, following a four-year term as a councillor. She is an active member of various local government boards and non-for-profits, including REFBC's Board of Governors. Boot has long been an advocate for the stewardship and management of water, soil, and the ecosystems they support.



### **Anita Georgy**

Anita Georgy is the former executive director of FarmFolk CityFolk, BC's oldest and largest food and agriculture charitable non-profit organization. Georgy previously served as executive director of the Richmond Food Security Society and school programs manager for the Stanley Park Ecology Society.



### **Kevin Huang**

Kevin Huang 黃儀軒 is the Cofounder and Executive Director of hua foundation, an organization based in Vancouver with the mission of strengthening capacity among East Asian diasporic youth, in solidarity with other communities, to challenge, change, and create systems for a more equitable and just future. Huang organizes in Vancouver's Chinatown.



### **Jess Ústi (Housty)**

Jess Ústi is a Haiḡzaq (Heiltsuk) mother, writer, and land-based educator from Bella Bella. She supports literacy, food security, culture and language, and stewardship programming for youth and families in her community through the Heiltsuk non-profit Qqs Projects Society, where she is Executive Director. Recently, Ústi concluded two terms on Heiltsuk Tribal Council.



## **Fresh Water Committee**

*Chair: Ramona Faust, Former Governor*

*Staff: Leanne Sexsmith, Director of Strategic Programs and Partnerships*

*Adarshana Thapa, Program Coordinator for the Healthy Watersheds Initiative*

### **Mark Angelo**

Mark Angelo is a renowned river conservationist, speaker, teacher, writer, and paddler. He is the Chair and Founder of both BC Rivers Day and World Rivers Day, now celebrated by millions of people in close to 100 countries. He is a recipient of both the Order of BC and Order of Canada. Angelo is the author of a children's book, *The Little Creek That Could: The Story of a Stream That Came Back to Life*.



### **Jennifer L. Archer**

Jennifer Archer specializes in strategic and policy advice related to freshwater protection in BC. Trained as a lawyer, Jennifer practiced contracts law for 10 years before discovering her passion for innovative agreements to advance freshwater protection. In 2012, she received a Master of Laws from UBC. Jennifer is a former codirector of the BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative.



### **Deanna Machin**

Deana Machin is a member of the Syilx (Okanagan) Nation and grew up in her home community along Okanagan Lake near Vernon. These connections have grounded her strong values in relation to First Nations' rights and their roles in the governance and management of their lands, waters, and resources. Machin is the former strategic development manager for the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC.



### **Carys Pinches**

Understanding and respecting the deep relationships between people and the natural world has always been a passion for Carys Pinches. She holds a BA (Hons) from the University of Victoria and an MSc from the University of Oxford. She serves as a Water Policy Advisor for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and is grateful to live in the traditional territory of the Lekwungen peoples.



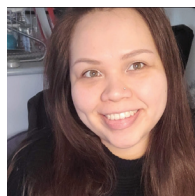
### **Aaron Sumexheltza**

Ski'us Aaron Sam Sumexheltza is a former councillor and chief of the Lower Nicola Indian Band and a practicing lawyer. His legal work included representing residential school survivors and criminal defence. Sumexheltza was a signatory to the Nicola Watershed Pilot on behalf of the Lower Nicola Indian Band and served as cochair for its implementation. Sumexheltza has a Bachelor of Laws from UBC.



### **Keely Weget-Whitney**

K'alhwá7álap nsneknukwa7 sa Keely Weget-Whitney nskwátsitsa T'it'q'et meckan St'at'imc múta7 Gitxsan. (Hello family and friends, my name is Keely Weget-Whitney, I reside in the community of T'it'q'et, and I am from the St'at'imc and Gitxsan Nations.) I swam the Fraser River from Lillooet to Lytton in 2017 and again in 2018 from Lillooet to Boston Bar, all for the love of salmon.



## Land Use and Conservation Committee

*Chair: Stacey Tyers, Governor*

*Staff: Jen McCaffrey, Grants Program Manager*

### **Cara Basil**

Cara Basil is Secwepemc from Bonaparte, currently residing on Tkemlups te Secwepemc lands. Basil is passionate about land-based healing and grounding her work in culture, language, and the interconnectedness of wellness to land. Basil is a Planner with Alderhill Planning Co. and a graduate student at UBC Okanagan focusing on Indigenous health and community-based palliative care.



### **Deborah Carlson**

Deborah Carlson is a Staff Lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law. She works with communities in BC to develop legal frameworks that support healthy, low-impact urban areas, and community-based planning processes that start from our connection to the natural environment. She has focused on climate change challenges, and how communities can thrive with ecosystem-based responses.



### **Lana Lowe**

Lana Lowe works as the Director of Lands, Resources and Treaty Rights for her community, the Fort Nelson First Nation, and is a PhD candidate at the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law, specializing in Indigenous law. Lowe is the recipient of a 2020-2022 Doctoral Fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the 2018 Land Champion Award.



### **Andy Yan**

Born and raised in Vancouver, Andy Yan is Director of SFU's City Program. Yan is also an Adjunct Professor at UBC's School of Regional and Community Planning. He has extensively worked in the non-profit and private urban planning sectors with projects in the metropolitan regions of Vancouver, San Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles, and New Orleans.





# Judging: Individual Awards

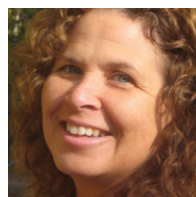
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## Land Champion and Emerging Leader Committee

The Land Champion Award and Emerging Leader Award are judged by the last three chairs of REFBC's Board of Governors.

### **Ramona Faust**

Ramona Faust is the Regional District of Central Kootenay Director for Electoral Area E, which surrounds the City of Nelson. She was appointed to the REFBC Board of Governors by the Union of BC Municipalities, serving from 2015 to 2022. The Board elected Faust as chair for 2018-19.



### **Mandy Hansen**

Mandy Hansen is a senior management consultant with over 20 years' experience serving the public and non-profit sectors. She has a doctorate in social sciences from Royal Roads University and is proud to be a member of the Real Estate Institute of BC. She has served as the chair of the REFBC Board of Governors and continues to be involved through the Impact Investment Committee.



### **Roberta J. Stewart**

Roberta Stewart joined HSJ Lawyers LLP as an associate in 2004 and became a partner in 2009. Stewart previously served on the boards of Prince George Crime Stoppers, MS Society of Canada (BC & Yukon Division), Prince George Chamber of Commerce, and Infrastructure BC and is currently in her second term as an REFBC Governor.



# The Awards

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The 2022 Land Awards are crafted by Eclipse Awards and fabricated from old-growth wood, salvaged by Unbuilders from the deconstruction of 100 Braid Street, a historic BC Distillery building in New Westminster. The Real Estate Foundation of BC is proud to be an investment partner in Unbuilders, which has made it their business to not demolish buildings, but to unbuild them. Finding new life for old materials results in positive economic, social, and environmental impacts through the creation of new products, meaningful employment, and building material out of diverted landfill. Plus, cool Land Awards! Learn more about Unbuilders at [unbuilders.com](https://unbuilders.com).



100 Braid Street. Photo: Unbuilders

# Thank You

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Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped shape the 2022 Land Awards Gala. Truly, we couldn't have done it without you!

## **REFBC Board of Governors**

Anthony Bastiaanssen  
Toni Boot  
Andre Gravelle  
Tina Lange  
Roberta Stewart  
Stacey Tyers  
Mavis Underwood

## **2022 Land Awards Committee**

Stephanie Butler  
Mark Gifford  
Stephen Hui  
Kimiko Johanson  
Roberta Stewart  
Sherry Yano

*Special thanks to Jim McCaughan, past chair of REFBC's Board of Governors.*

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## **Vendors**

### **Event planning**

*Clearwater Events & Weddings*

### **Catering**

*Truffles Fine Foods*

### **A/V**

*McHugh Productions*

### **Filming (event)**

*Butter Studios*

### **Filming (award videos)**

*Cheyenne Bergenhenegouwen*

### **Photographer (event)**

*Pardeep Singh*

### **Photographer (booth)**

*The Near and Dear*

### **Graphic design**

*theforest.ca*

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## **Gifted books**

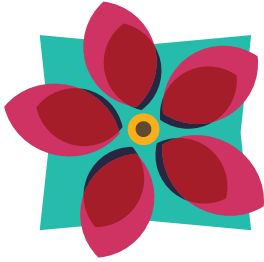
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By Shawna Davis, photography by  
Toonasa Jordana Luggi  
(McKellar & Martin)

*Best Hikes and Nature Walks With Kids In  
and Around Southwestern British Columbia*

By Stephen Hui, foreword by Myia Antone  
(Greystone Books)





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