



For Immediate Release

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Riverside Downtown Partnership Celebrates Downtown Achievements

Riverside, CA. The Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) will host its 34th Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at the Historic Mission Inn Hotel and Spa. This annual event recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations for their excellence in leadership and service to the downtown community.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

Roy Hord ‘Volunteer of the Year’ Award - Virginia Blumenthal has been selected by the Hord family as the 19th recipient of the Roy Hord ‘Volunteer of the Year’ Award. She was nominated by Paul Gill for her volunteer service with numerous organizations such as the Riverside Philharmonic and the Riverside Community College District. Ms. Blumenthal has received multiple accolades for her professionalism and her commitment to community, including the Krieger Meritorious Service Award for outstanding community service - the highest honor of the Riverside County Bar Association.

Arts and Culture – Assemblymember Jose Medina for his commitment to arts and culture in the community, including authoring AB 101 that made California the first state to mandate Ethnic Studies as a high school graduation requirement, plus securing \$9.7 million to support the development of the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture and Industry, \$3.5 million for the development of the Mission Heritage Plaza, and \$7 million to support the restoration and preservation of the Harada House.

Business Activity – The downtown business community for its strength and resiliency during the pandemic and beyond. Downtown Riverside suffered losses but also saw new businesses open as well as existing businesses expand.

Downtown Event – Riverside Tamale Festival recognition of the event providing a celebration of family, food, music, and art in an effort to restore and revitalize the Trujillo Adobe & La Placita.

Downtown Improvement – Riverside Main Library in recognition of its innovative space with an outdoor terrace, and beautiful views of downtown and Mount Rubidoux, plus the children’s room with 570 lightbulbs used in the snowflake lighting, and the Archive Photograph Collection with its 4,400 reels of microfilm.

Downtown Safety and Security – County of Riverside Department of Public Health in recognition of its commitment to public safety during the pandemic with programs, services, and information. The Department of Public Health was the conduit for most Riversiders to receive information about the virus, tests, vaccines, and more.

Chair's Award – Douglas Shackelton (posthumously) for his many significant contributions to both downtown and to RDP. These include his service on the Board and as Chair, and the creation of the Roy Hord 'Volunteer of the Year' Award and the Chair's Award.

The RDP Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony will begin with a no-host reception at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner, the awards ceremony, and then recognition of outgoing and incoming RDP Board members. Tickets purchased prior to March 31st are \$125 per person or \$1,100 for a table of ten. Tickets purchased April 1st and after are \$135 per person or \$1,200 for a table of ten. To purchase tickets or a table, call the RDP office at 951-781-7335.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. All sponsors receive a number of complimentary tickets and recognition in print material and social media depending on the level of sponsorship. RDP is also looking for donated items such as tickets, gift certificates, and gift baskets for the opportunity drawing. All proceeds raised are used to offset the costs of the Annual Meeting and Awards. To sponsor or donate, contact Janice Penner at the RDP Office at 951-781-7339.

About Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP)

RDP is a not-for-profit organization that was formed in 1981 to advocate for a better downtown. RDP manages Downtown Riverside's Business Improvement District. RDP's mission is to promote, represent, and manage an environment to support downtown Riverside as a regional destination for economic, arts, cultural and residential uses.