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**Amanda Burden,
Principal
Bloomberg Associates**

ULI URBAN OPEN SPACE AWARD CEREMONY

**Announcement scheduled during
General Session: Keynote with John Stumpf and Hamid Moghadam**

- **DATE: Thursday, October 8**
- **TIME: 10:45 AM to 12:00 PM**
- **LOCATION: Moscone West, West Hall, Level 1**

[AMANDA INTRODUCED AND WALKS ONTO STAGE]

GOOD MORNING

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY
TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS
OF SOMETHING I CARE VERY DEEPLY ABOUT—
THE ULI URBAN OPEN SPACE AWARD.

I AM AMANDA BURDEN – AND
FOR 12 YEARS I WAS
THE NEW YORK CITY PLANNING COMMISSIONER
UNDER MIKE BLOOMBERG AND
I AM NOW A PRINCIPAL WITH BLOOMBERG ASSOCIATES.

IT HAS BEEN MY LIFE'S WORK TO CELEBRATE AND PROMOTE
TRANSFORMATIVE PUBLIC OPEN SPACES.
AND THAT'S WHY I CREATED
THIS ULI URBAN OPEN SPACE AWARD.

WHEN I WAS HONORED IN 2009 WITH
THE J.C. NICHOLS PRIZE FOR
VISIONARIES IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
I USED THAT GENEROUS PRIZE TO CREATE THIS AWARD
IN ORDER TO
SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON
CATALYTIC PUBLIC OPEN SPACES
ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.

IN 2011, THE KRESGE FOUNDATION, METLIFE FOUNDATION, AND
THE ULI FOUNDATION
JOINED FORCES TO CONTINUE SPONSORING THIS AWARD.

A GREAT MENTOR OF MINE,
THE RENOWNED URBANIST HOLLY WHYTE,
IS FAMOUS FOR SAYING
“YOU CAN MEASURE THE HEALTH OF A CITY BY THE VITALITY
AND ENERGY OF ITS STREETS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES.”

IN MY EXPERIENCE GREAT PUBLIC OPEN SPACES ARE
WHAT MAKES A CITY WORK

THEY ARE WHAT MAKES CITIES COME ALIVE

THAT’S TRUE IN NEW YORK, HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO
AND IN CITIES AROUND THE WORLD

THIS AWARD
RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES
OF PUBLIC DESTINATIONS THAT HAVE
TRANSFORMED AND REVITALIZED
THEIR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

IN A MINUTE WE’LL INTRODUCE YOU
TO THE PROJECTS SELECTED AS FINALISTS
AND
THEN ANNOUNCE THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR’S AWARD.

BUT BEFORE WE SHOW THE VIDEO,
I WANT TO NOTE THAT THE URBAN OPEN SPACE AWARD
IS NOW A GLOBAL AWARD.

RAPID URBANIZATION AND EXPANSION OF CITIES THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD
HAVE MADE THE IMPORTANCE
OF GREAT URBAN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES
EVEN MORE CRITICAL
TO ECONOMIC WELL BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE
OF THEIR CITIZENS.

AS ULI BECOMES MORE GLOBAL,
WE HAVE SEEN A GROWING INTEREST
IN SHARING GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES.

TO THAT END, WE ARE RELEASING TODAY

THE PUBLICATION:
“TRANSFORMATIVE URBAN OPEN SPACE”
WHICH FEATURES ALL THE WINNERS OF THE AWARD
OVER THE PAST 6 YEARS,
SHOWING THE VALUE AND IMPACT
OF THE SPACES THEY CREATED
AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES.

YOU CAN FIND THE PUBLICATION HERE -AT ULI CENTRAL-
IN THE AWARDS SECTION.

THIS YEAR WE HAD A VERY IMPRESSIVE POOL OF
INTERNATIONAL SUBMISSIONS.

IN EVALUATING APPLICATIONS,
THE JURY USES SEVERAL CRITERIA.

1. IS THE PROJECT INVITING TO THE PUBLIC?

2. IS IT A LIVELY GATHERING SPACE WITH
SEATING, SUN AND SHADE AND
ATTRACTIVE THAT OFFER MANY WAYS TO
ENJOY THE SPACE?

3. IS THE PROJECT USED INTENSIVELY ON A DAILY BASIS AND
DOES IT ACT AS A DESTINATION
FOR A BROAD SPECTRUM OF USERS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?

AND

4. HAS THE PARK TRANSFORMED
SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS AND
CATALYZED INVESTMENT?

USING THESE CRITERIA,
THIS PAST SPRING
THE JURY SELECTED THE SIX OUTSTANDING AWARD FINALISTS
THAT YOU'LL SEE IN THIS BRIEF PRESENTATION.

[SHOW VIDEO PRESENTATION]

AFTER THE JURY VISITED ALL SIX SITES,
WE RECONVENED IN LATE AUGUST
TO SELECT THIS YEAR'S WINNER.

AFTER MUCH DEBATE,
WE DECIDED THAT THERE WERE
TWO VERY DIFFERENT BUT
EQUALLY REMARKABLE PROJECTS,
BOTH DESERVING TO BE WINNERS, SO
THIS YEAR THERE ARE
TWO WINNING PROJECTS AND
RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S AWARD.

SO I AM DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE

THE WINNERS OF THE 2016 ULI URBAN OPEN SPACE AWARD:

FIRST,
MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS,
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, U.S.A.

ACCEPTING THE AWARD ARE:

MICK CORNETT: THE MAYOR OF OKLAHOMA CITY

JAMES TOLBERT: CHAIR EMERITUS, MYRIAD GARDENS
FOUNDATION

MAUREEN HEFFERNAN: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MYRIAD
GARDENS FOUNDATION

JAMES BURNETT: PRESIDENT – OFFICE OF JAMES BURNETT
AND

SCOTT MURASE OF MURASE ASSOCIATES

AND THE SECOND WINNER IS:

THOUSAND LANTERN LAKE PARK SYSTEM,
FOSHAN, GUANGDONG, CHINA

ACCEPTING THE AWARD ARE:

SEAN O'MALLEY

AND PEIWEN YU OF SWA GROUP

PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING
THE WINNERS OF THE
2015 ULI URBAN OPEN SPACE AWARD.

THANK YOU.