

October 9, 2014

Friends of Housing honored for extraordinary efforts

SEATTLE—The Washington State Housing Finance Commission has honored six leaders as “Friends of Housing” for their work to create, support and advocate for affordable housing statewide.

The 21st annual Friend of Housing awards were presented yesterday in a ceremony at the annual Housing Washington conference in Tacoma. The awardees are:

- **Stephen Buxbaum**, mayor of Olympia and longtime housing advocate whose accomplishments include the [Pear Blossom Place](#) shelter for homeless families;
- **Chris Venne** of [Community Frameworks](#), whose work with private as well as nonprofit developers has increased affordable housing throughout Spokane;
- **Jayne Auld**, who retired from [Spokane Housing Ventures](#) earlier this year after leading the organization to create or preserve more than 900 affordable rental units in Eastern Wash.;
- **Adrienne Quinn**, whose leadership of the City of Seattle Office of Housing, the Medina Foundation and now the [King County Community and Human Services](#) department has led to homes for thousands;
- **Beacon Development Group** (beacondevgroup.com), an exemplary consulting resource for affordable housing developers across the state;
- **Harry Hoffman** (posthumous), whose quiet commitment and relentless drive had an enormous impact on [housing and social justice](#) until his death in June 2014;



Honorees from left to right (front): Olympia Mayor Stephen Buxbaum, Chris Venne, Ishbel Dickens, Dave Roberts (*for Jayne Auld, not pictured*), Adrienne Quinn, and Paul Purcell and others from Beacon Development Group.

In addition, the Commission honored **Ishbel Dickens** with the Margaret M. Sevy Affordable Housing Lifetime Achievement Award for her work on behalf of manufactured-home communities statewide. Through Ishbel’s [local](#) and [national work](#), these homeowners have gained a strong voice protecting this critical affordable housing resource.

Friend of Housing awards are presented each year to individuals or organizations who have made exceptional contributions to creating or supporting affordable housing in ways such as helping to solve housing problems, creating innovative financing mechanisms, or drafting legislation or policy that addresses the state’s housing needs.

“We are delighted to honor the work of these outstanding leaders and advocates,” said Karen Miller, chair of the Housing Finance Commission. “They have transformed lives as well as communities throughout the state.”

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Now in its 31st year, the [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](#) is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team that works with lenders, investors, developers, nonprofit organizations and more to bring private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals throughout Washington. The Commission has created and preserved affordable homes for more than 275,000 people across the state, while contributing more than \$42.5 billion and 240,000 jobs to the economy.