Linda Wedman: 2014 RCA Medalist

Biography

Linda Wedman is currently the COO and was on the founding board of The Works International Visual Arts Society, established in 1981 as a not-for-profit charitable organization to advance the development, awareness and appreciation of the visual arts and design in Edmonton, Alberta, and Canada.

In 1986, The Works Society, with Wedman as co-founder, established The Work Art & Design Festival, now entering its 29th year. With a Festival annual budget of 1 million dollars (cash and in-kind contributions), Artists and Designers from every continent have been featured in 1324 free exhibits in 780 venues throughout one square kilometer of Edmonton's Downtown core, experienced by over 6.8 million visitors.

In 1994, Wedman & The Works Society facilitated the establishment of The Edmonton Business Council for Visual Arts (The Council), and subsequently, The Art & Design in Public Places Program (The Places), a multi-partnership initiative of key businesses, The Works Society and The City of Edmonton. These initiatives have raised over 6.759 million in funding (cash and in-kind contributions) developing over 61 public art and design projects, and presenting 165 scholarships to students in art & design and cultural management-related programs.

Since its creation, The Works Society has invested in developing Canada's next generation of cultural workers. In 2001, The Society formalized its Education Initiatives and has since awarded over 200 internship certifications.

Wedman's work in arts development and advocacy has been recognized through numerous awards, including: The Edmonton Salute to Excellence Award, 2000; Edmonton's Cultural Hall of Fame as a Builder of the Arts, 2001; Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, 2002; ACAD 75th Anniversary Alumni Award of Excellence Recipient, 2002; Alberta Centennial Medal from the Alberta Government, 2005; the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2012; & The Rozsa Foundation Human Resources Award, 2013.