



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Kliner, 757-452-6592, [jkliner@downtownnorfolk.org](mailto:jkliner@downtownnorfolk.org)

## **Downtown Norfolk Council Honors Patricia W. and J. Douglas Perry and Mel Price at Annual Meeting on June 7 at THE MAIN**

NORFOLK, Va. – (April 2017) – Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) will hold its Annual Meeting on June 7 at the Norfolk Hilton THE MAIN. The theme, New Sights, New Heights, will celebrate the many new developments that have occurred in Downtown over the past year.

The DNC Board of Directors also recognizes contributions from individuals and organizations that have been integral to Downtown's success. This year's honorees include Patricia W. and J. Douglas Perry with the Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation as the Peter G. Decker Jr. Downtowner of the Year Award and Mel Price, AIA, principal of Work Program Architects, with the Roy Badgley Distinguished Service Award.

The Peter G. Decker, Jr. Downtowner of the Year Award is given to an individual or individuals who have made a substantial contribution to Downtown Norfolk through economic and cultural development. Pat and Doug Perry's philanthropic support of Downtown Norfolk and the region has touched many of its arts and community organizations including the Chrysler Museum and Glass Studio, The Hurrah Players, Governor's School for the Arts, The Virginia Stage Company, Slover Library, The Salvation Army's Kroc Center, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Arts Festival, Old Dominion University, Access College Foundation, An Achievable Dream, Samaritan House and many more. They also established Glass Wheel Studio in the NEON Arts District, and the family's most current focus is on renovating the historic Royster Building on Granby Street to create a glass-centric Autograph Collection Hotel by Marriott.

"The Perrys have made a significant impact on the arts and culture offerings here," said Mary Miller, president and CEO of Downtown Norfolk Council. "The success of the Perry Glass Studio was influential in attracting the Glass Art Society Conference, an international gathering of glass artists, educators and collectors, in Downtown this June. Their investment, confidence and generosity have enriched us all."

The Roy Badgley Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual and volunteer who has given continuously to make Downtown Norfolk a better place to live, work and explore. Price is a founding board member of the Friends of the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation, which is responsible for planning, marketing and raising funds for the 10.5-mile bike and pedestrian trail running from Norfolk State University along the Elizabeth River to The Port of Virginia. In 1999, the trail began with the donation of an abandoned railroad spur that has been completely transformed into a multi-use trail that offers scenic views of the Elizabeth River and historic Norfolk neighborhoods, representing more than \$2 billion in land value. Price and the Friends

of the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation are leading an effort to enhance and expand the trail by adding amenities such as kayak launches, solar lighting, playgrounds and charging stations, improving wayfinding and promoting the trail locally and regionally, turning the ERT into a world-class asset. Read more at [www.elizabethrivertrail.com](http://www.elizabethrivertrail.com).

Price is also the treasurer of Re:Vision Norfolk and serves on the executive committee for the Greater Norfolk Corporation and the Board of the Downtown Norfolk Council. She chairs the AIA National Small Firm Exchange, representing small architecture firms throughout the United States. She was one of the first to join the community-based task force to build The Plot I in Downtown. WPA's offices house an art gallery used for a variety of art exhibitions and events.

The Annual Meeting draws hundreds of Downtown supporters. The event begins at 11:15 for registration and exhibits and 12:15 for the luncheon and program. For ticket information, please contact Noel Gramlich at 757-623-1757 or email [ngramlich@downtownnorfolk.org](mailto:ngramlich@downtownnorfolk.org).

Downtown Norfolk Council is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous Downtown. DNC also manages the Downtown Norfolk Improvement District, a 48-block special services district with enhanced services that keep Downtown friendly, safe and spotless. Connect with Downtown Norfolk on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or visit [DowntownNorfolk.org](http://DowntownNorfolk.org).

###