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## **Downtown Honors Jane Batten and Drew Ungvarsky at Annual Meeting in June**

NORFOLK, Va. – (June 2015) – Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) will hold its Annual Meeting on June 17 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk. The event, that draws hundreds of Downtown supporters, begins at 11:15 for registration and exhibits and 12:15 for the luncheon and program. Tickets are available at [DowntownNorfolk.org](http://DowntownNorfolk.org).

A highlight of the Annual Meeting is recognition of award recipients for the year, which are announced by the DNC Board of Directors. This year, the 2015 Peter G. Decker, Jr. Downtowner of the Year Award recipient is Jane P. Batten, a community leader for her efforts on the new Slover Library. The 2015 Roy Badgley Distinguished Service Award recipient, Drew Ungvarsky, owner and creative director of Grow.

The Peter G. Decker, Jr. Downtowner of the Year Award is given to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to Downtown Norfolk through economic and cultural development. Jane P. Batten, through the Batten Foundation, donated \$20 million to design and build the Slover Library. She matched a previous donation by her late husband Frank Batten Sr. of \$20 million, which was added to the City of Norfolk's contribution of \$21.5 million and \$4 million from the Slover Library Foundation.

The Battens had a vision for a world-class library and one that would be among the most technologically advanced in the country. Their vision was realized when Slover Library opened in January 2015 to record-breaking crowds. It has since been awarded the ALA/AIA Excellence Award for library architecture.

The \$65 million Slover Library encompasses three centuries of architecture: the historic Seaboard building (1800s), the Selden Arcade (1900s), and a new six-story tower that connects them all. Newman Architects from New Haven, Conn. designed the 138,000-square-foot jewel that showcases traditional library functions with innovative technology, stunning ornamentation and engaging community spaces.

Batten's philanthropy is focused on educational issues within the region, specifically early education. The Norfolk Cosmopolitan Club declared Jane Batten Norfolk's First Citizen and gave her the Cosmopolitan Distinguished Service Award Medal. She serves on the board of directors of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Elevate Early Education, Slover Library Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. She is a trustee of Virginia Wesleyan College and the George Washington Foundation and is a

life trustee of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges. She also co-chairs the Focused Ultrasound Foundation Council.

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. This year's recipient, Drew Ungvarsky, has worked tirelessly on a number of committees and organizations that contribute to the economic vitality and vibrancy of Downtown. Through Re:Vision Norfolk and the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) he's volunteered thousands of hours growing and mentoring a creative class and connecting them with projects that make Norfolk more livable and engaging.

At Grow, Ungvarsky has built a digital media company that represents some of the world's biggest brands such as google, HBO and Coke. The company has been recognized by the industry's leading awards such as Cannes Lions, Webby Awards, One Show and the Favorite Website Awards among others. Ungvarsky has transformed Downtown into a tech corridor, and a number of small businesses have benefitted from his ideas, clients, resources and skills. His contributions have been seen in several projects including the new arts district, NEON, the Downtown Farm Market and Downtown's bikeability efforts. Most recently, he launched Vibrant Spaces, a program to accelerate neighborhood-defining street-level businesses in the commercial district, with the Downtown Norfolk Council.

The 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).

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