

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joost Bakker Honoured with Vancouver Heritage Award

Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver Heritage Foundation (VHF) presented architect, Joost Bakker, with a special recognition award at a private reception held November 5th in the new CBC/Radio-Canada Headquarters in Vancouver.

A long-time supporter, and the first Chair of the VHF Board of Directors, Joost was honoured at the event for his ongoing commitment and contribution to the Foundation and to Vancouver's built environment. Joost's interest in architecture started at an early age and his passion for urban issues and the public realm began right out of university. Soon after, he broke new ground when he and partner Norm Hotson made an unprecedented move to preserve and recycle the buildings on a former industrial site, now known as Granville Island. Their bold vision for the Island took into account the historic buildings and existing street layout and created a vibrant, public place that has become a benchmark for neighbourhood revitalization around the world.

The success of Granville Island paved the way for many other notable projects for Joost, including the award-winning Richmond City Hall and most recently, the Canadian Navy Monument in Ottawa and the redevelopment of the CBC/Radio-Canada Headquarters in Vancouver. Scheduled to be finished this Fall, the newly renovated CBC includes a public plaza that will be an open and accessible urban oasis for the community.

Included in the plaza design is an exciting new artist's exhibit area, which Joost quickly championed. Intended to be a platform for promoting the city's built environment, *The Wall* will showcase the works of local artists. Made possible through a unique partnership between VHF, JJ Bean and CBC, *The Wall* is another example of Joost's ongoing dedication to the community and his desire to create cultural precincts. "It's been an honour to have worked with Joost during the last 10 years," said VHF Executive Director Diane Switzer, "to help the Vancouver Heritage Foundation grow and achieve its goal of creating culture in our city where the repair and creative reuse of older buildings is the norm."

When asked for his thoughts upon receiving this special recognition from the Vancouver Heritage Foundation, Joost reflected on the evening and said, "the recognition of Vancouver's unique heritage, particularly the city's cultured heritage, is important to pass on to generations to come."

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About Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects

Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden is a firm with expertise in mixed-use and waterfront development, urban planning, historic restoration, residential, municipal, cultural and academic building types. HBBH is responsible for a wide range of work in Canada, the USA, Australia and China and have successfully designed a number of arts facilities including the Kelowna Rotary Arts Centre and the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby, BC. The firm's pursuit of design excellence has been acknowledged nationally and internationally through numerous publications and more than 50 design awards, including a 2008 Governor General's Medal in Architecture for the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos, BC.

About The Vancouver Heritage Foundation

The Vancouver Heritage Foundation is a registered charity supporting the conservation of heritage buildings and structures in recognition of their contribution to the city's economy, sustainability and culture.