



**INSPIRED LEADERS
SHAPING CITIES**

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IDA Inspired Leader Awards Announced *IDA Honors City Leaders from Tulsa, OK and Oklahoma City*

Washington, DC – At their 68th Annual Conference & Marketplace last week, the International Downtown Association (IDA) recognized two urban champions as 2022 Inspired Leader Award winners: **Karen Keith**, County Commissioner for the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma and **Jane Jenkins**, President & CEO for the Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership.

Urban place management professionals are at the forefront of significant change throughout metropolitan areas around the world and the Inspired Leader Award honors those who have shown clear achievements in recent years, in addressing a broad range of issues impacting how people live, work and play in downtowns and city centers.

“Karen Keith has incredible influence in the social service, corporate and business communities in Tulsa, Oklahoma and colleagues describe her as universally respected. Our second Inspired Leader, Jane Jenkins, has welcomed many IDA members to the industry, serving as a resource and mentor at every turn,” said David Downey, IDA President and CEO. “IDA is pleased to honor Commissioner Keith and Ms. Jenkins for their continued contributions made in their respective cities.”

Commissioner Karen Keith is serving her fourth term as an elected commissioner of Tulsa County since 2008. She’s respected in the community and often crosses party lines to accomplish what’s necessary for her region and constituents. She understands the value of downtown in a much larger county and the importance of continuing to invest in infrastructure, civic gathering places, and a dynamic business community.

“I’m so thankful for our Downtown Partnership team and the leadership of Brian Kurtz as they work to fill the gap in cleanliness, safety and beautification. I’m thrilled to be recognized by the IDA...this organization works hard to share best practices and ideas that are inspiring and lifting the standards of all of our downtowns. This was a wonderful surprise. I’m humbled to be among the IDA honorees.”

Jane Jenkins, a former teacher turned urban place pioneer, has effectively managed a unique BID that encompasses six distinctive districts over the past 13 years. Jane possesses the ability to be think beyond the present and focus on initiatives that align her community for success beyond her tenure. She understands the importance of partnerships and collaboration, and she continually strives to create opportunities for her team and organizations to be thought leaders and innovators.

“To be recognized by one's peers is the highest honor for a professional. To be nominated by your staff is the highest honor for a leader. To be an inspired leader and influence others is a reflection of my

personal values throughout my career as both an educator and urban place manager. I am honored, humbled and thrilled to receive this award from IDA.”

IDA’s members have a proven track record of creating collaborative public-private partnerships to tackle weighty issues. More than 2,500 downtown management districts exist in cities throughout the U.S. and Canada, affecting significant change in every major metropolitan area throughout North America in an industry that is growing rapidly around the globe. Place management work touches every discipline of city building, including economic development, leadership, marketing, events, public space management, public policy, planning and infrastructure.



About IDA

IDA is the premier organization for urban place professionals who are shaping and activating dynamic city center districts. Our members are city builders and downtown champions who bring urban centers to life, bridging the gap between the public and private sectors. We represent an industry of more than 2,500 place management organizations, employing 100,000 people throughout North America and growing rapidly around the world. Founded in 1954, IDA is a resource center for ideas and innovative best practices in urban place management. For more information, visit www.downtown.org.

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