INTERNATIONAL DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION
1275 K STREET NW, SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.393.6801 | DOWNTOWN.ORG

INSPIRED LEADERS
SHAPING CITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2025

CONTACT: Allison Shashok
(202) 798-5926
allison@downtown.org

IDA Lifetime Achievement Awards Announced

IDA Honors City Leaders from Seattle and Oklahoma City

Washington, DC – At their 71st Annual Conference & Marketplace last week, the International Downtown Association (IDA) recognized two urban leaders with the IDA Lifetime Achievement Award: **Jane Jenkins**, former President & CEO for the Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership and **Kate Joncas**, Director of Urban Strategy and Development for MIG.

This prestigious award recognizes an individual who has advanced downtown revitalization through their leadership, dedication and generosity. This honor is reserved for professionals and advocates who have made a broad, long-term impact on numerous downtowns, center cities or mixed-use commercial neighborhoods.

“Jane's 37-year career is a testament to her profound impact on the place management industry," said David Downey, IDA President & CEO. "From her instrumental leadership in reshaping downtown Oklahoma City to her internationally recognized expertise and commitment to mentoring countless professionals, Jane has been a true force for change. We are incredibly proud to honor her for her extraordinary contributions and unwavering dedication to creating vibrant, sustainable urban centers."

Ms. Jenkins is recognized for her extraordinary contributions to the place management profession. During her 14 years as President and CEO of the Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership, Jane was instrumental in reshaping downtown districts. As an internationally recognized expert, Jane has worked with top organizations like the Urban Land Institute, the American Institute of Architects and the National Main Street Center, sharing her expertise in urban planning, economic development and sustainable growth. Ms. Jenkins also served as Board Chair of IDA from 2007-2009. Her commitment to the industry also includes active mentoring, training, speaking and writing.

"Kate’s place management career spans nearly five decades, and her impact extends far beyond Seattle," said Downey. "She has been a trailblazer and a mentor, particularly for women in our industry, and her calm and confident leadership during pivotal moments for IDA has left an indelible mark. We are incredibly proud to honor Kate for her unwavering commitment and the path she has forged for countless professionals who have followed."

Ms. Joncas's career has served as an example to many downtown professionals. She was one of the first female downtown CEOs in a major city. While she spent 23 years in leadership positions in Seattle, she has had strong impacts on other cities through her work with the National Main Street Center and most recently MIG. Involved in the leadership of IDA since 1995, Kate served as board chair in 2001-2002 and provided calm and confident leadership for the organization throughout the aftermath of the World

Trade Center tragedy. Her legacy reflects that she set the example and forged the path for many future female leaders of place management organizations.

The selection of the IDA Lifetime Achievement Award is made by the IDA Past Chairs Advisory Council, underscoring the prestige and significance of this honor within the industry.

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 downtown.org.

###