

## **13th DAREarts Leadership Awards Raises \$240,000 To Benefit Arts Programming For At-risk Children**

**For Immediate Release:** April 24, 2015

**TORONTO, ON** - DAREarts founder **Marilyn Field** today announced that the charity's 13th annual DAREarts Leadership Awards raised \$240,900, which will benefit children in underserved communities across Canada who, through DAREarts programs, are empowered to tackle life challenges and become leaders.

The fundraising gala, presented by **Northbridge Insurance** and hosted by CTV Canada AM's **Marci Ien**, was held on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at the Allstream Centre in Toronto and attended by 350 guests.

During the evening, six courageous teens received **Leadership Awards** to continue their education. The youths were introduced onstage by Presenting Sponsor, **Northbridge Insurance** and Lead Supporters **Guy Carpenter, Scotiabank, TD** and **Noront Resources**. **Judy Patina** presented the Patina Prize. Each youth recounted how DAREarts' values of Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence helped them tackle their life challenges. They were met with standing ovations from the guests who were astounded by the youths' courage, poise and achievements. The youths were:

- Judith Beaver, 15
- Michelle Khela, 17
- Kohilan Mohanarajan, 16
- Blake Perryman, 15
- Dante Royale Scholar, 16
- Elizabeth Ward, 18

Fashion broadcaster, **Jeanne Beker C.M.**, and Olympian and Aboriginal spokesperson, **Waneek Horn-Miller**, received the 2015 DAREarts Cultural Award, which is presented annually to individuals who have advanced culture for Canadian youth. *"Jeanne and Waneek are true Canadian role models,"* said **Marilyn Field**, founder of DAREarts. *"Like DAREarts, these women motivate, empower and inspire excellence in the lives of those around them."*

DAREarts Vice-Chair and Executive Vice-President of Northbridge Insurance, **Mark LeBlanc**, commented, *"Feedback from our guests was incredible. They were moved by the DAREarts children and the truly inspiring stories that they shared. The heartfelt words from our two honourees resonated with all in attendance."*

DAREarts paid tribute to its board Chair and Noront Resources' COO, **Paul Semple**, who passed away the previous day. Paul genuinely believed in DAREarts engaging kids in the arts – and that this leads to their success in school and in life.

DAREarts thanks the many volunteers who made this evening a resounding success. Read more at [http://www.darearts.com/leadership\\_awards.shtml](http://www.darearts.com/leadership_awards.shtml)

**Background:** DAREarts is a 19 year old Canadian charity that works with 9-19 year olds from schools in underserved communities across Canada, using the arts to empower them to become leaders. The children paint, sculpt, sing, dance, compose, design, write, act and create, mentored by arts professionals and the DAREarts guiding principles of Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence. Visit [www.darearts.com](http://www.darearts.com)

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