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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Uptown Association Announces Winners for Annual Business of Community Awards

Awards presented at Uptown Association's annual event on January 28

Minneapolis (January 29, 2014) – On Tuesday, January 28, Uptown businesses and members of the community were honored with Business of Community awards at Uptown Association's annual event, "Uptown Talks: An Evening of Community, Cuisine and Conversation." The Business of Community Awards recognize community leaders, small businesses and large businesses in the Uptown area that have made it their goal to bring community into their everyday practices within the past year.

Sven Sundgaard, KARE 11 meteorologist and Uptown enthusiast, presented an award to three winners on behalf of the Uptown Association. This year's winners are:

Community Leader Award Winner:

- **Dwight Carlson (Salon Levante):** Dwight Carlson, owner of Salon Levante, has been active in Uptown membership meetings, and has participated in many of the Uptown Association's initiatives. He is eager to volunteer his time and talents to strive to keep Uptown the community it has been for years.

Small Business Award Winner:

- **Magers and Quinn** is one of the largest independent booksellers in the Midwest and has been located in Uptown for 20 years. From creating a unique atmosphere for shoppers with eye-catching window displays, to offering book recommendations, to developing and maintaining a blog devoted to intelligent discussion, to hosting many events throughout the year, Magers and Quinn keep the community literate and engaged.

Large Business Award Winner:

- **The Ackerberg Group** has aimed to differentiate itself by knowing the most about the markets they work in, and by providing individualized attention to their clients. Their history in Uptown makes them different. Not only do they focus their business in Uptown, but their commitment to create a thriving, vibrant urban neighborhood is one of the great motivators of their work. They are inspired by Uptown all the time and it gives them great joy that their work helps make it a great neighborhood that delights and energizes all who experience it.



L to R: Uptown Association President Marcus Genzlinger, KARE 11 meteorologist Sven Sundgaard, Stuart Ackerberg from Ackerberg Group, Ray Harris, Dwight Carlson, Mary Magers and Gary Mezzone from Magers and Quinn, Uptown Association Executive Director Maude Lovelle.

In addition to announcing the Business of Community Awards, the Uptown Association presented the first ever **Uptown Lifetime Achievement Award** to Ray H. Harris. Ray Harris has been an urban problem solver for five decades. His professional and civic activities include projects that improved the quality of life and the environment in urban America, particularly in and around Minneapolis. His real estate projects have brought new energy to worn out neighborhoods, from his landmark Calhoun Square development to Greenway Cables, the first owner-occupied residential development in Loring Park.

In addition to honoring local community leaders, the “Uptown Talks” event featured a panel discussion concerning issues in the Uptown community. Panelists included musician, writer, Doomtree Records artist Dessa; Minneapolis Police Chief Janeé Harteau; Senator Scott Dibble; Representative Frank Hornstein; Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman; City Council Member Lisa Bender; Minneapolis Park Board and Recreation Board Commissioner Anita Tabb; and Minneapolis Public School Director of District Athletics Trent Tucker. Guests also had the opportunity to sample signature dishes from dozens of Uptown restaurants and learn about ideal wine and beer pairings, while networking with members of the community.

If you would like more information, or to schedule an interview with UA Executive Director Maude Lovelle, or any of the winners, please call Jessica at 612-823-4581 or e-mail jessica@uptownminneapolis.com

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About the Uptown Association

Uptown Association (UA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the economic vitality and sustainability of Uptown through collaboration and partnerships. UA advocates for the greater benefit of the entire Uptown community. The organization is member-based with a 15 member volunteer Board of Directors and serves in a variety of capacities to more than 500 businesses and nine neighborhood associations in Uptown’s perceived boundaries. It has six working and active committees that include Board of Director, member, non-member and resident representation. The Uptown Association is also the producer of the Uptown Art Fair, now in its 51st year.