

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beautifying Calgary for 40 Years

Greenery Office Interiors Owner-President Joanne Young Wins 2016 Calgary Award for Commerce

Calgary, June 26, 2017 - Celebrating her company's 40th year in business in 2017, Greenery Office Interiors Owner and President Joanne Young has been recognized by the City of Calgary with the 2016 Community Achievement Award for Commerce, for outstanding achievements and significant contributions to improving the quality of life in Calgary. For four decades, Greenery has brought nature indoors, creating interior landscapes in the city's office towers and hotels, for all Calgarians to enjoy. Ms. Young has been a contributing citizen who has added to the lore and legend of Calgary's entrepreneurial and philanthropic spirit.

"It is a great honour to be recognized in my home community and in such a special year for Greenery," said Young. "I am proud to be a Calgarian and to have contributed to our city's growth and community spirit over the past 40 years."

Starting out as a one-woman outfit in 1977, Young has grown her company from a home-based business putting desktop plants in corporate Calgary reception areas, to an internationally recognized, award-winning operation with 18 staff in 2017, working from a 5,000 square-foot showroom, office and warehouse. Greenery designs, installs and maintains plantscapes, atriums, living walls, moss walls and now also does green roof maintenance.

Young is recognized as a leader in the North American interior landscape industry and has put Calgary on the map for peers and suppliers across Canada and the United States. She is a regular, expert speaker at industry events and has won 13 industry awards from her North American peer associations for excellence in design, installation and maintenance. In addition to company awards, Young is the recipient of the Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year – Western Finalist award.

Part of Young's growth and success strategy for Greenery has been to stay at the forefront of international industry trends. Greenery installed Western Canada's first living wall in 2010 – the 2,000 square foot centerpiece in Jamieson Place. The project won international acclaim for its size and design and put Greenery into the forefront as an industry expert in living walls. Greenery was also the first interior plant company in Calgary to promote plants for clean air more than 20 years ago, and continues to champion the benefits of plants in promoting wellbeing at work, including increased productivity.

Over the course of four decades, Young has leveraged her business contacts and networks to make significant charitable and community-boosting contributions to Calgary. In 1999, she was one of 11 Calgary businesswomen who founded

Chickwagon and became the first all female group to sponsor a chuckwagon at the Calgary Stampede. In addition to Stampede-boosting, before *Chickwagon* ended its run in 2015 the organization contributed more than \$600,000 to organizations serving women and children in Calgary. Young was also one of six women who started *Calgary's Annual Bachelor Auction for Ovarian Cancer* in 2003, raising awareness and \$300,000 for Ovarian Cancer Canada. Earlier in her career she was actively involved with Calgary's Cerebral Palsy Association, serving as board president for two years, board member for five. In 1980 Young created a library in the NICU parent's lounge and support group for parents of premature babies at Foothills Hospital in memory of Hayley Young. Currently Greenery provides plants for Wellspring and works with schools on living wall projects.

"I love our city. It's interesting to reflect on what we've been through together since the late 70s. As Calgary's economy has gone global, Greenery has brought global plant trends to business here. We've been through the booms and busts and are now weathering the economy's third downturn. With our amazing team and clients we've found creative ways to keep things growing. That's the Calgary spirit."

Young receives the City of Calgary Community Achievement Award for Commerce on June 28, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Calgary Municipal Building Atrium.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Greenery Office Interiors in an award-winning Calgary-based, owner-operated business providing interior plant design & service and office plant leasing. Established in 1977, the company is proudly celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2017.