



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Mayor announces 2007 Small Business Award Winners tonight

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels will announce this year’s 10 Mayor’s Small Business Awards winners this evening at a celebration at Town Hall.

“Local businesses provide the unique character that makes Seattle such a great place to live,” says Mayor Greg Nickels. “They’re the economic engines that employ local people and provide services throughout our city – small business owners are my heros.”

Every year, ten small businesses in Seattle receive special recognition for their accomplishments through the Mayor’s Small Business Awards presented by Wells Fargo. 2007 marks the 23rd year of the Mayor’s Small Business Awards program.

When: Monday, September 10, 2007
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Formal Program from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Town Hall, 1119 Eighth Avenue, Seattle (Between Spring & Seneca)
www.townhallseattle.org

Parking: Street and area garages; also Parking at Convention Center Main Garage (Entrance is on 8th Avenue between Seneca and Pike Streets)
Discounted parking vouchers (\$4.00) are available for pick up at event

Ten winners have been selected on the basis of excellence in management, entrepreneurial

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spirit, customer service, and community involvement. This year's winners represent a cross-section of Seattle's small businesses and illustrate the diverse nature of small business in the variety of services, locations and strategies for success. To qualify, the business must have no more than 100 employees and gross revenues of less than \$10 million.

Over the last two decades, the awards program has recognized more than 230 small businesses, many of which have gone on to experience significant growth. Past recipients include such companies as: Starbucks Coffee Company (1984), Uwajimaya (1984), Ezell's Fried Chicken (1989), the Dilettante (1990) and City People's Mercantile (1993). Last year's winners included BizXchange, majorie restaurant and Second Use Building Materials, Inc.

The seven judges involved in this year's awards included small business owners, previous awards winners and representatives of community development organizations. After a confidential review of the nominations and rounds of deliberation, they selected this year's winners, who will be honored at a special reception at Town Hall this evening.

This year's winners of the 2007 Small Business Awards, presented by the City of Seattle and Wells Fargo, are:

Baas Art Gallery & Framing Karrie Baas, owner Madison Valley

2703 E. Madison Street, Seattle, WA 98112

206-324-4742

www.baasartgallery.com

Baas Art Gallery & Framing opened in the Madison Valley in 1995, and has grown along with the business district. A neighborhood art and frame shop that provides "expert picture framing from Diplomas to Degas," Baas is active in supporting local schools, the Madison Valley Merchants Association, the Greater Seattle Business Association, and Cornish College of the Arts. Karrie's passionate dedication to nurture her employees, mentor emerging artists and give back to her community, shine through her small business that is a gem of the Madison Valley. Karrie thrives on supporting the diversity of her neighborhood – "I love to bring community and people together and give back with my time."

Canlis Restaurant Mark Canlis, owner Queen Anne

2576 Aurora Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

206-283-3313

www.canlis.com

Canlis is a Seattle institution that spans 57 years of history and three generations of the Canlis family, who pride themselves on creating a "second home for Seattleites – a meeting ground where milestones can be celebrated and honored." Superior service, cuisine, wine, and ambiance are Canlis standards. Hospitality is its strategic advantage. Canlis is built on three values: trust, generosity and other-centeredness, which shows through in how Canlis treats its employees like family, its patrons like honored guests, and the community organizations it supports like strategic partners.

Isotron Corporation Christina Lomasney, owner Fremont / Wallingford

1443 N. Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98103

206-632-0713

www.isotron.net

Isotron is an energy, environmental and defense services company co-founded in 2001 by the father and daughter team of Hank and Christina. This entrepreneurial enterprise has a large percentage of women scientists and engineers, and continues to innovate in the area of high-performance coatings and decontamination systems. Isotron's research and product portfolio ranges from electrokinetic technologies for removing heavy metal contaminants from water, to coatings technologies that are protecting soldiers from chemical and biological warfare agents. The company partners with the University of Washington and the Center for Nanotechnology's Nanoscience and Nanotechnology User Facility. Isotron recognizes that "our employees are the creative genius that overcome challenges and see no boundaries to their ability to solve problems."

JTS Manage Services Tanya Jimale, owner Central District / Jackson Place

1825 S. Jackson Street, Ste #102, Seattle, WA 98144

206-861-8000

www.jtsmanageservices.com

JTS is a Seattle urban success story. From bootstrapping her business in the early days by selling her house, Tanya's business has grown into a thriving 14-person firm that is the only African-American owned business offering construction management services in the Greater Puget Sound area. Described as a natural teacher and mentor, and someone who shows respect and care to all, from clients to interns, Tanya has nurtured her business, her employees, and her community at the same time. JTS operates by its core values of accountability and strong business ethics, and recently won the Seattle Jobs Initiative's Champion of the Year – Opening Doors to Living Wage Careers award. Tanya says, "I knew all along that I had a desire to be independent. I took what I learned from my early jobs at other companies and started my own."

Maneki Restaurant Jean Nakayama, owner International District

304 6th Avenue South, Seattle WA 98104

206-622-2631

Email: maneki_restaurant@yahoo.com

The oldest Japanese restaurant in the region, Maneki was established in 1904 in the Nihonmachi section of the International District, and has been at its current location since 1946. This neighborhood icon of the "lucky cat" has beckoned customers to eat Japanese "comfort food like Grandma made at home" for generations. This is a place where "Mom" still serves as hostess as she has since the 1960s, and loyal customers line up around the block and request items that are no longer on the menu. Jean says she is most proud when she serves four generations of family together in the tatami room, or customers who came as small children come back as teenagers with their boyfriends. Maneki strives to be a place where families take time to sit together at dinner, something important in all cultures.

PRR, Inc. Rita Brogan, owner Downtown Seattle

1109 First Avenue #300, Seattle, WA 98101

206-623-0232 www.prrbiz.com

PRR is a public relations / public affairs firm that is a true Seattle business – driven by a mission to promote the environment, community, and human health. As it has grown since 1981 to a firm with 46 people, PRR has preserved the ethic of customer service and one-on-one attention that comes with a smaller firm. PRR harnesses all the tools of public policy and community relations, of advertising and media relations, and of research and social science into an integrated machine that serves the Seattle community. They are a pioneer in implementing environmentally and socially-conscious business strategies. To serve their clients well, PRR maintains that “quality is not just a series of steps or a written procedure, but a way of doing business every day.”

Ramsey & Associates, Inc. Karen Ramsey, owner Fremont / Wallingford

1730 N. Northlake Way, Ste 3301, Seattle, WA 98103

206-324-1950 www.ramseyassoc.com

Ramsey & Associates is an independent financial planning firm that has a vision for providing great investment management services, and partnering with clients to help them build their dreams and reach their goals. At Ramsey, the motto is to “treat our clients like we would want to be treated: with honesty, respect and the best financial advice we have to offer.” Karen has taken her natural gift of dealing with money and finances, developed her employees with the same values and customer service practices, and continues to reach more clients with her growing business. She says, “to me, my business is not just a business, it is a calling.”

Veraci Pizza, Inc. Errin Byrd Jett & Marshall Jett, owners Ballard

1512 NW 64th Street, Seattle, WA 98107

206-525-1813 www.veracipizza.com

Veraci Pizza is a blend of art, food, motion and community. The husband and wife team of Marshall and Errin built their first mobile pizza oven in 2003 and started making pizzas at the Ballard Farmer's Market. The ovens are works of art, and around each oven, they create a gourmet pizza restaurant without walls. Whether at a farmer's market or a catering client's home, they involve their customers with the making of these fresh pizzas. Veraci Pizza is very committed to sustainable business practices, whether recycling and food-composting, or using a renewable energy source – 100% Washington Apple Wood. They believe in supporting their local farmers' markets and Seattle Public Schools, and love being part of the Seattle community.

