



Cultural Careers Council Ontario

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PATRICIA FRASER WINS THE FIRST ROBERT JOHNSTON AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY HR PRACTICES IN CULTURE

November 18, 2010 Toronto – Patricia Fraser, Artistic Director at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, was named today as the inaugural winner of the Robert Johnston Award for exemplary Human Resources (HR) practices in the arts and culture sector. The award was created by Cultural Careers Council Ontario and is the first of its kind in Ontario’s arts and culture sector.

Fraser was nominated by Michael Jones, Arts Program Director at the Metcalf Foundation, who noted “there are very few individuals who throughout their entire career have made such a deliberate and fruitful contribution to supporting the growth of our sector’s most valued resource: its people.”

CCCO’s selection jury echoed those comments: “Patricia Fraser is both an artist and an arts administrator who throughout her career has helped literally hundreds of people – from young dancers to dancers transitioning into other roles after performance careers. She is a model of excellent HR policy, both in her professional and personal lives.”

Patricia Fraser has had a long career as an artist, teacher, advisor, scholar and administrator. In addition to her position at School of TDT, she is pursuing her Master’s Degree in dance from York University and still carries on a performing career. For more information on Patricia Fraser, please go to <http://www.schooloftdt.org/about-whoswho.html>.

“Over the years, Fraser has searched out resources of all kinds to support ... young artists – new graduate studies programs, inspired reading materials, mentors, advisors, collaborators, scholarships, awards and countless other incentives to personal and artistic growth,” explained Susan Macpherson, Artistic Associate, School of TDT, who wrote on behalf of Fraser’s nomination.

The Robert Johnston Award was established in honour of CCCO’s long standing Executive Director Robert Johnston who retired in 2009, to honour those who demonstrate a tenacious commitment to furthering human

resources development in the cultural sector. CCCO Executive Director Diane Davy noted, "Bob Johnston's long career in the arts, at The National Ballet of Canada and at CCCO, has resulted in a heightened awareness of the importance of human resources management and professional development."

The Robert Johnston Award carries with it a cash recognition and a gift of appreciation. It was presented at a reception on Thursday evening at The Young Centre for the Performing Arts. Johnston who was a member of the selection jury presented the award to Patricia Fraser. Other members of the jury included former CCCO board member Jenny Ginder, a consultant whose practice includes organizational development and government policy, and Marg Anne Morrison, Managing Director of the Organization of Book Publishers of Ontario.

Cultural Careers Council Ontario works to build a resilient cultural sector by delivering business skills training and resources. With more than 250,000 employees and contributing \$19.7 billion to the province's GDP, the sector is a leader in the creative economy. CCCO provides business resources, information, programs and services for workers (employed or self-employed) and organizations in Ontario's arts, heritage and culture disciplines.

The next call for nominations for the Robert Johnston Award will be in spring 2011. More information, including pledge forms to sustain the award, can be found at www.workinculture.ca.

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