

Deutsche Bank announces finalists with creative solutions to urban problems

The Deutsche Bank Urban Age Award, which recognises and celebrates creative solutions to the problems and opportunities of city dwellers, has announced the eight finalists selected from the 254 entries received, the highest number in the history of the award.

The jury convened from 20-22 March to adjudicate the submissions and tour the city to meet some of the outstanding projects. They unanimously identified eight projects to shortlist, which are, in alphabetical order:

- Bicycle Empowerment Network (BEN) (city-wide)
- Masiphumelele Community Library (Masiphumelele)
- Mothers Unite (Lavender Hill)
- Regeneration of City and Soul (Retreat)
- Rocklands Urban Abundance Centre (Rocklands, Mitchells Plain)
- Social Justice Coalition (Khayelitsha)
- Thrive Recycling (Imizamo Yethu/Hout Bay)
- VPUU - Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (Khayelitsha)



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The winner will be announced at an award ceremony on 19 April 2012.



BEN - Bicycle Empowerment Network (city-wide)



Rocklands Urban Abundance Centre (Mitchells Plain)



Thrive Recycling (Imizamo Yethu/Hout Bay)

The jury believes the submissions reflect the rich reservoir of organisations, talent, energy and grassroots leadership across all segments of the city, a diversity of activism that bodes well for Cape Town's future. Such a response made the adjudication process incredibly difficult, but also profoundly rewarding and the jury members felt deeply humbled and inspired by the range of quality initiatives sprouting all over the city.

The three international jurors were Prof Ricky Burdett, director of LSE Cities; Tony Williams, former mayor of Washington DC and Enrique Norten, renowned architect based at TEN Arquitectos, Mexico/NY.

Capetonian jury members were Nomfundo Walaza, CEO of the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre; Malika Ndlovu, poet, playwright and performance artist; Andrew Borraine, CEO of the Cape Town Partnership and jury chair Prof Edgar Pieterse, director of the African Centre for Cities at UCT.

For more information, go to www.DBUAaward.net.