



News release  
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## DEUTSCHE BANK URBAN AGE AWARD ANNOUNCED FOR CAPE TOWN

On 19 April 2012, the fifth Deutsche Bank Urban Age Award, worth R750 000, will be presented to a project – or projects – based in the Cape Town metropolitan area. The open call for entries starts on 23 November 2011 and ends on 24 February 2012.

The Deutsche Bank Urban Age Award recognizes and celebrates creative solutions to the problems and opportunities that face more than half the world's population now living in cities. Accordingly, the award focuses on projects that benefit communities and local residents by improving their urban environments. It seeks to encourage citizens, policy-makers, private business and non-governmental organisations to take a proactive role in creating shared responsibilities for the cities of the 21st century – mankind's first truly 'urban' age. In 2007, the award was presented jointly to two projects in Mumbai, and in 2008 to a project in São Paulo. It travelled to Istanbul in 2009 and most recently Mexico City in 2010. The award is associated with the Urban Age project, a worldwide investigation into the future of cities jointly initiated by Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, and LSE Cities at the London School of Economics and Political Science [see [www.urban-age.net](http://www.urban-age.net)]

Wolfgang Nowak, Managing Director of the Alfred Herrhausen Society said: *"Governing a city means managing contradictions. The Deutsche Bank Urban Age Award aims to encourage people to overcome contradictions and work together to take responsibility for their cities."*

The award will be judged by an independent jury of international and local members from a mix of disciplines. The three international jury members are Prof. Ricky Burdett, Director of LSE Cities, the former Mayor of Washington D.C. Tony Williams, and architect Enrique Norten (TEN Arquitectos, Mexico/NY). The jury is chaired by Edgar Pieterse, Director of the African Centre for Cities at UCT, and the local jury members are Nomfundo Walaza, CEO of the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre, poet, playwright and performer Malika Ndlovu, and CEO of the Cape Town Partnership, Andrew Boraine.

Asked why he agreed to chair the jury for this award, Edgar Pieterse responded:

*"It offers an opportunity to reinforce the momentum that has been established in Cape Town over the past few years, that sees design and public-community oriented urbanism as a key to unlocking many of the tough challenges confronting the city – this is most recently evidenced in the successful World Design Capital 2014 bid. This award initiative explicitly seeks to recognise and validate organic initiatives from the grassroots, which is a vital complement to the efforts of the public sector to integrate the city and improve liveability in all areas, especially poor and working class areas. Through greater visibility of what people are doing for themselves, it becomes easier to promote social action across class, cultural and race lines to build genuine social coalitions for a more equitable, just and vibrant city."*

Jury member Malika Ndlovu said she is honoured to be a part of this panel, and had this to say about the award:

*"We are a country filled with many resilient, passionately resourceful and innovative people, often from particularly marginalised communities, who manifest the hope, beauty and victories over poverty rooted in their hearts and minds. They are the citizens who believe before they see and hence have access to inner resources of imagination, self-motivation and compassion allowing them to manifest what has not been seen or courageously harnessed before. Cape Town, the lucky and unquestionably worthy city chosen for the 2012 Deutsche Bank Urban Age Award, is a South African site where this very spirit of transformation and its amazing community-driven evidence is being identified and encouraged for the future."*

Jury member Nomfundo Walaza had the following thoughts on the award:

*I love this city, and feel there is incredible work being done by unsung heroes behind closed doors that deserves to be brought to light. Newspapers should focus more on the good stories - stories about the people who follow their passion, roll up their sleeves and do something meaningful for their community rather than waiting for someone else to do it. We seldom take the time to humble ourselves, to say 'I don't understand', and ask communities what they actually need. They know exactly what is needed, and as such they should be the ones in control. Solutions to problems germinate in the communities themselves rather than in boardrooms. The paternalistic relationship inherent in the 'culture of entitlement' is challenged by grassroots initiatives that find ways of sustaining themselves from the ground up. The award sends a clear message: in the midst of all the bad stuff we see and hear about, the most important factors are still resilience and the pooling of resources. Ultimately it is people, passion and value systems that sustain projects. The award is important because it recognises projects that demonstrate collaboration and partnership, buy-in from the community, and the leveraging of support and volunteerism. It turns cynicism and negativity on its head and builds on courage and resilience, the human spirit that is God-given and resides in all of us.*

For more information on the award, visit [www.DBUAaward.net](http://www.DBUAaward.net)

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