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Awards note pair's positive influence

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FORT WORTH — Two Fort Worth businessmen who have exhibited care and desire to improve downtown, and five projects that reflect the importance of redevelopment to the vitality of the inner city were honored Thursday with **Trailblazer Awards**. The **awards** were presented during a luncheon and annual meeting of Downtown Fort Worth Inc., a nonprofit advocacy group, attended by more than 425 business and civic leaders at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel. This is the second year for the **awards**.

Chairman's **Award**

The **award** was given to Trinity Uptown developer **Tom Struhs**. He is behind the 40-acre Trinity Bluff project that is transforming the north end of downtown along Samuels Avenue, the city's oldest neighborhood, with luxury town houses and condos. His projects have included Cassidy Corners and Pecan Place. He is now building Villa de Leon, a 20-unit, six-story luxury condo building.

He is also redeveloping a large part of Terrell Heights, on the city's near southeast side, with affordable, single-family houses.

Struhs "is someone who has positively impacted downtown Fort Worth for a number of years and continues to play a significant leadership role," Randy Gideon, chairman of Downtown Fort Worth Inc., said in presenting the **award**.

President's **Award**

The **award** was given to Barney Holland, president of the Barney Holland Oil Co., to recognize the 2002 redevelopment of a former roofing-company warehouse into his company's headquarters at East First and Weatherford streets. Holland Oil is the city's oldest fuel wholesaler and operates Fuelman of DFW, celebrating its 80th year.

"We can all think of parts of downtown that would benefit from a little more attention, maintenance and investment," Andy Taft, president of Downtown Fort Worth Inc., said in presenting the **award**.

OTHER WINNERS

Five winning projects and their categories:

Placemaking: Bass Hall at Fourth and Calhoun streets, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Promotion and marketing: Williams Trew Urban, a division of the Williams Trew residential real estate firm in Fort Worth, for its work to promote downtown living.

Adaptive reuse or preservation: Courtyard by Marriott Blackstone, 601 Main St., a 23-story hotel that underwent a \$20 million renovation between 1997 and 1999. It is now owned by an affiliate of RLJ Development.

Sustainable development: Sundance West and Sanger Lofts apartments in Sundance Square, developed in the early 1990s by Fort Worth's Bass family. The projects are credited with fueling the push for more downtown residences.

Urban design: Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., which underwent a \$75 million renovation in 2002 and 2003 that expanded the facility with a grand ballroom, and meeting and exhibit space.

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