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Winners of the 2016 Window Decorating Contest Announced

Wilmington, NC – After sifting through a record 58 entries, judges selected Platypus & Gnome, An Eclectic Kitchen at 9 South Front Street as the winner of the Downtown Window Decorating contest. The creative display featured lights, a snow machine and a real baby dressed as Santa in a sleigh pulled by a reindeer to create a charming winter scene in front of the business. A la mode Boutique at 108 Market Street and Chadsworth Columns at 277 N. Front Street tied for second place and First Citizens Bank at 315 Market Street and C.W. Worth House Bed and Breakfast, a Victorian Inn at 412 South 3rd Street tied for third. Wilmington Wine at 605 Castle Street and Chandler’s Wharf Shops at 225 S. Water Street won honorable mentions.

The good natured competition is organized by the Downtown Business Alliance (DBA). The purpose of the annual event is to create a festive atmosphere to capture the imagination of merchants, area shoppers and visitors. The contest is also a major component of the Historic Wilmington Holly Jolly Holiday Stroll. The contest is judged by local dignitaries using scorecards with points awarded for Originality, Creativity, Wow Factor, and Holiday Spirit.

“This was an outstanding year for the contest in terms of enthusiasm, creativity and originality,” said Amy Grant, Event Organizer and owner of Art in Bloom Gallery, 210 Princess Street. “Many business owners go all out for their displays and this effort really makes it fun and interesting for people of all ages,” she added.

For the traditional judging contest, first place prize includes \$100 donated by DBA and a handcrafted wooden plaque by Kids Making It. The second place winner receives a \$50 gift certificate from the Copper Penny Restaurant with the third place winner receiving a \$25 gift certificate from Occasions Just Right.

“DBA is pleased to unite area merchants for the holiday season and all year long,” said President Terry Espy. “The judges had a great time touring through Downtown to inspect all of the entries and I recommend that area residents and visitors join this free, family and fitness-oriented activity by viewing all the displays and voting for the People’s Choice Award,” she said.

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Judges for the contest were chauffeured in style by Shane Heffernan and Carson Kent of Audi and Land Rover Cape Fear. Entries were spread throughout Downtown including the historic core, the North 4th Street (Brooklyn Arts District) and Castle Street. Judges for the contest included:

Ben Boyatt, Kat 5 Kava (Last Year's 1st Place Winner)
Meg Caswell, 5th & Castle Design Shop
Terry Espy, MoMentum Companies
Amy Grant, Art in Bloom Gallery
Representative Susi Hamilton, NC House of Representatives, District 18
Debra Howard, Bella Vita Design Group
Councilman Paul Lawler, Wilmington City Council
Dave Nathans, Urban Building Company

With the traditional judging now finished, area residents, shoppers and visitors can be a part of the contest by voting for a People's Choice Award. A list of all participating businesses can be downloaded by visiting www.hollyjollywilmington.com/#windowdecorating. After obtaining the list, people can tour the displays at their leisure during the Holly Jolly Stroll on December 9th and December 10th. Then, log on again to vote for a favorite at www.hollyjollywilmington.com/#windowdecorating.

Voting will end at midnight on December 11th. The winner will be announced on social media on December 15th. While only one vote per email address is allowed, people are also welcome to campaign for their favorite by posting at *#HollyJollyWindows*.



Platypus & Gnome - 1st Place

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A la mode Boutique
2nd Place (tie)



Chadsworth Columns
2nd Place (tie)



C.W. Worth House Bed and Breakfast
3rd Place (tie)



First Citizens Bank
3rd Place (tie)

Contacts:

Amy Grant, Art in Bloom Gallery
484.885.3037
grantamyn@gmail.com

Ed Wolverton, WDI President and CEO
910.763.7349
Ed@wilmingtondowntown.com

Terry Espy, DBA President
(919) 270-1711
terry@momentumprojects.com