

Awards ceremony to honor local civic leaders

BY STEVE LACKMEYER

Business Writer
slackmeyer@opubco.com

Downtown Oklahoma City Inc. will honor the Oklahoma Heritage Association and three civic leaders for their outstanding contributions to the area at the 23rd annual Dean A. McGee Awards.

Arts and cultural leader James A. Pickel will receive the Dean A. McGee Award. The Stanley Draper Award will be presented to Assistant City Manager Catherine O'Connor for her work with public/private projects, and the Oklahoma Heritage Association will receive the Neal Horton Award for their restoration of the former Mid-Continent Life Building in MidTown.

Jim Brewer, who died last year, will receive special recognition for his many contributions to the early development of Bricktown.

The 2009 Dean A.



James A. Pickel



Catherine O'Connor



Jim Brewer

McGee Awards ceremony will be May 14 in the Skirvin Hilton Grand Ballroom. The black-tie evening begins with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and award presentation at 7.

The ceremony will be hosted by Automobile Alley leader and Ward 6 Councilwoman Meg Salyer and City Manager Jim Couch.

"Downtown Oklahoma City continues to be shaped by visionaries who give generously of their time and talent to help move our city forward,"

Salyer said. "We are very proud to honor these leaders who bring modern-day vision to downtown, following in the footsteps of the award namesakes — Dean McGee, Stanley Draper and Neal Horton. These three men offer us a solid example of focused leadership that encourages and inspires us to follow."

The Dean A. McGee Award recognizes individuals for a lifetime of contributions to downtown Oklahoma City and is named after the Oklahoma City business leader who headed Kerr-McGee Corp.

for two decades and was passionate about developing downtown for future generations.

Oklahoma Heritage Association is being recognized for buying the historic Mid-Continent Life Insurance Building at NW 13 and Classen and renovating into the Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

Downtown Oklahoma City Inc., will present a special recognition posthumously to Jim Brewer, who received the Phoenix Award in 1991 (later renamed the Neal Horton Award).