

Melanie Conn - Winner of 2016 Mark Goldblatt Award



Melanie is a community activist and feminist who has been working in co-op and community economic development (CED) in Vancouver since the 1970s. She has worn many hats to implement co-op ideas: founding member and director of the East End Food Co-op, CCEC Credit Union, Plane Jane Construction and the Yew Street Housing Co-op. As a member of Devco, a worker co-operative of

consultants, Melanie has provided technical and development assistance for dozens of new co-ops. She also designs and delivers train-the-trainer programs and other curriculum related to co-operatives. She was the first Director of SFU's Certificate Program for CED Professionals which she designed in response to the need for professional development opportunities for people working in CED.

She is a founding member, director and marketing manager of Common Thread, an innovative co-op that provides marketing and production coordination for local women who thrive in a flexible work environment. Common Thread upcycles street banners into delegate bags and other beautiful and useful products.

(CWCF's Merit Award was named for Mark Goldblatt last year. Mark, who died in February 2015, had been the President of CWCF for 14 years until 2007. He was a lifelong champion of co-operation and a visionary leader, whose legacy we honour.)