

Downtown Seattle Association names business leader Kevin Daniels this year's 'Downtown Champion'

June 11, 2015

Kevin Daniels, president of Daniels Real Estate in Seattle, was totally surprised when the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) named him as the recipient of the 2015 Downtown Champion Award during the June 10 DSA annual meeting at The 5th Avenue Theatre.

He received the award on stage at this 57th-annual meeting in front of hundreds of DSA members and friends.

The honor was given for his leadership and vision for the long-term development of downtown Seattle, with focus on sustainability and preservation.

The DSA says that when Daniels first walked through the historic First Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1908, he said, “We have to save this. We’re not building to sell, we’re building to last and those are two different philosophies.”

Now, Daniels is turning the church at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Marion Street into a restaurant and ballroom, which will sit at the base of his new high-rise, the 43-story Fifth + Columbia.

“Kevin is a champion for downtown in every way,” said DSA President and CEO **Jon Scholes**, in a statement. “He’s developed market-rate housing and added iconic additions to our skyline, and he’s got an uncanny ability to renovate buildings with clean, modern aesthetics without losing the historic charm.”

Daniels is president of Nitze-Stagen & Co. which focuses on investment, and Daniels Real Estate concentrates on the development of landmark buildings and community redevelopment projects.

Daniels, who is on the board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, is also a regent at Gonzaga University.

No stranger to honors, he received the Urban Hero Award from the International Sustainability Institute and other prestigious awards for his work to save Seattle's First United Methodist Church.

