

For Release: April 17, 2009

FORT WORTH'S SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE MEMBER, JYL DEHAVEN, TO DISCUSS GREEN DEVELOPMENT IN FORT WORTH AS BRIT DISTINGUISHED LECTURER ON THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009; FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC; RECEPTION, 6:30 P.M.; LECTURE, 7:00 P.M.

*FORT WORTH, Texas* – Jyl DeHaven, CEO of Green Urban Development, will explore “*Building for the Future: Green Development in Fort Worth*,” as part of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) continuing lecture series on Sustainability by Design — on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden’s Dorothea Leonhardt Lecture Hall at 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard. A reception at 6:30 p.m. in honor of Ms. Franklin will precede the lecture, which is open and free to the public.

As the last lecturer in the 2008-09 series, Jyl DeHaven will bring the discussion back home to Fort Worth. With over a decade of experience in the rapidly growing “green” industry, Ms. DeHaven will discuss how Fort Worth is turning its attention to sustainable development and smart growth. With vast improvements in the availability and quality of green products and increasingly competitive pricing, Fort Worth can become a leader in environmental practices, making the leap beyond sustainable development to restorative development.

As a member of Fort Worth's Sustainability Task Force, Ms. DeHaven has a close eye on efforts underway to sustain the city’s ecological and social systems while tackling the costs of infrastructure expenses, traffic growth, air quality, etc. One example is the Urban Race Street project, a mixed-use development located a mile from downtown and within walking distance of the Trinity River. It will be a live / work / play environment that focuses on energy efficiency and environmental sensitivity, while creating a true community center.

The 2008-09 series organized by BRIT and sponsored by Home Energy Americas and Oncor, presents green buildings and landscape practices that help Texans be better stewards of the environment and its finite natural resources.

This topic has directly informed BRIT’s plans for a 68K sq. ft. headquarters which will incorporate sustainable design in construction, operation and landscaping. The \$48 million project is structured to achieve Gold LEED certification when completed in 2011.

More information about the [future headquarters](#) as well as all lectures in the [Distinguished Lecturer Series](#) and can be found on BRIT’s website: [www.brit.org](http://www.brit.org).

Co-hosts of the lecture series are the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Botanical Society, and Fort Worth Garden Club.

Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on the Distinguished Lecturer Series and other BRIT free programs, visit [www.brit.org](http://www.brit.org) or call: 817.429.3200.

### **About Jyl DeHaven, CEO Green Urban Development**

Jyl DeHaven is a visionary entrepreneur with real estate and management experience that understands the intricacies of developing energy efficient, environmentally sensitive, and socially responsible commercial and residential projects that make economic sense. She has

focused on the rapidly growing “green” industry for over a decade and has become a regional expert in the integrative approach to developing sustainable and smart growth development projects. She is currently a member on Fort Worth's Sustainability Task Force.

Ms. DeHaven is actively involved in public and industry associations such as Urban Land Institute, North Central Texas Council of Governments, US Green Building Council, Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW), Habitat for Humanity, Urban Forestry Board, and the Master Planning Committee for Urban Village Revitalization.

Ms. DeHaven has founded several commercial and non-profit ventures.

### **About Green Urban Development**

[Green Urban Development](#) is a limited partnership serving as the general partner for “green”, sustainable real estate projects. The company’s specialties include mixed-use, urban-infill, building reuse, transit oriented, and traditional neighborhood developments. Ms. DeHaven is CEO and co-founder.

### **About Going Green USA**

[Going Green USA](#) is a consulting company that assists clients in “greening” their interior product and finish choices of live, work, and play real estate projects. Ms. DeHaven is the founder.

### **About Green Collar Vets**

[Green Collar Vets](#) is a nonprofit organization that provides training and business support to veterans at a local, regional, and national basis. These men and women – most of whom are returning veterans of Iraq and now out of the military – are trained in the booming industries related to the energy efficient, environmentally sensitive movement. This skilled work force of installers specializes in green products and finishes. Ms. DeHaven is the co-founder.

### **About the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)**

Opened in 1991, BRIT is a nonprofit international botanical resource center open to the public. Its mission is to conserve our natural heritage by deepening our knowledge of the plant world and achieving public understanding of the value that plants bring to life. BRIT fosters respect for ecological balance and the interconnectedness of all living things, the conservation of biological diversity, the integrity of scientific investigation and intellectual pursuits, and the desire to discover the unknown to expand humankind’s knowledge and understanding of plants in our natural environment.

BRIT has conducted extensive research in tropical rainforests in the Philippines, Costa Rica, and currently in Peru and Papua New Guinea. BRIT’s exploration of the natural world through field study, scientific research, botanical analysis, and educational programs places it in the forefront of conservation and preservation of Earth’s finite resources.

At the Fort Worth headquarters, BRIT's staff presents workshops and educational programs and provides consultation to research scientists, students, teachers, artists, plant enthusiasts, vineyard owners, ranchers, veterinarians, farmers, homeowners, gardeners, lawyers, physicians, businesses, government agencies, museums, schools, arboreta, hospitals, and poison control centers.

With a collection of approximately one million dried plant specimens representing most of the Earth's plant families, BRIT has one of the largest herbaria in the United States. It has the largest independent herbarium in the Southwest and one of the world's best collections of Texas plant specimens. Its botanical library houses approximately 100,000 volumes of books, periodicals, and journals from 100 countries.

BRIT's primary facility is in downtown Fort Worth in a restored historic warehouse at the corner of 4th and Pecan Streets.

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**Contact:** Pat Harrison  
Assistant Director and Head of Education  
Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Inc.  
817-332-4441 ext. 220  
Metro: 817-429-3200  
Email: [pharrison@brit.org](mailto:pharrison@brit.org)