



**MEDIA ADVISORY:** For Immediate Release  
**DATE:** February 25, 2019  
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## **EVENT PLANNED TO HONOR VIBE CO-FOUNDER, RECENTLY NAMED FIRST CITIZEN OF VIRGINIA BEACH BY THE JAYCEES**

*(Virginia Beach, VA) February 25, 2019*—Arts, local businesses and the environment are themes for a party planned for April at Virginia MOCA to honor Laura Wood Habr, 2018 First Citizen of Virginia Beach. Habr is a co-founder of the ViBe Creative District and co-owner of Croc's 19<sup>th</sup> Street Bistro. Since 1950 this local award from The Virginia Beach Jaycees been honoring the men and women in our community who have been instrumental in furthering the welfare of Virginia Beach citizens. Laura joins the ranks of past Mayors, politicians and other local business owners who have been champions for growth in our own backyards. The 2017 honoree was Mr. Morgan Davis, President & CEO of TowneBank.

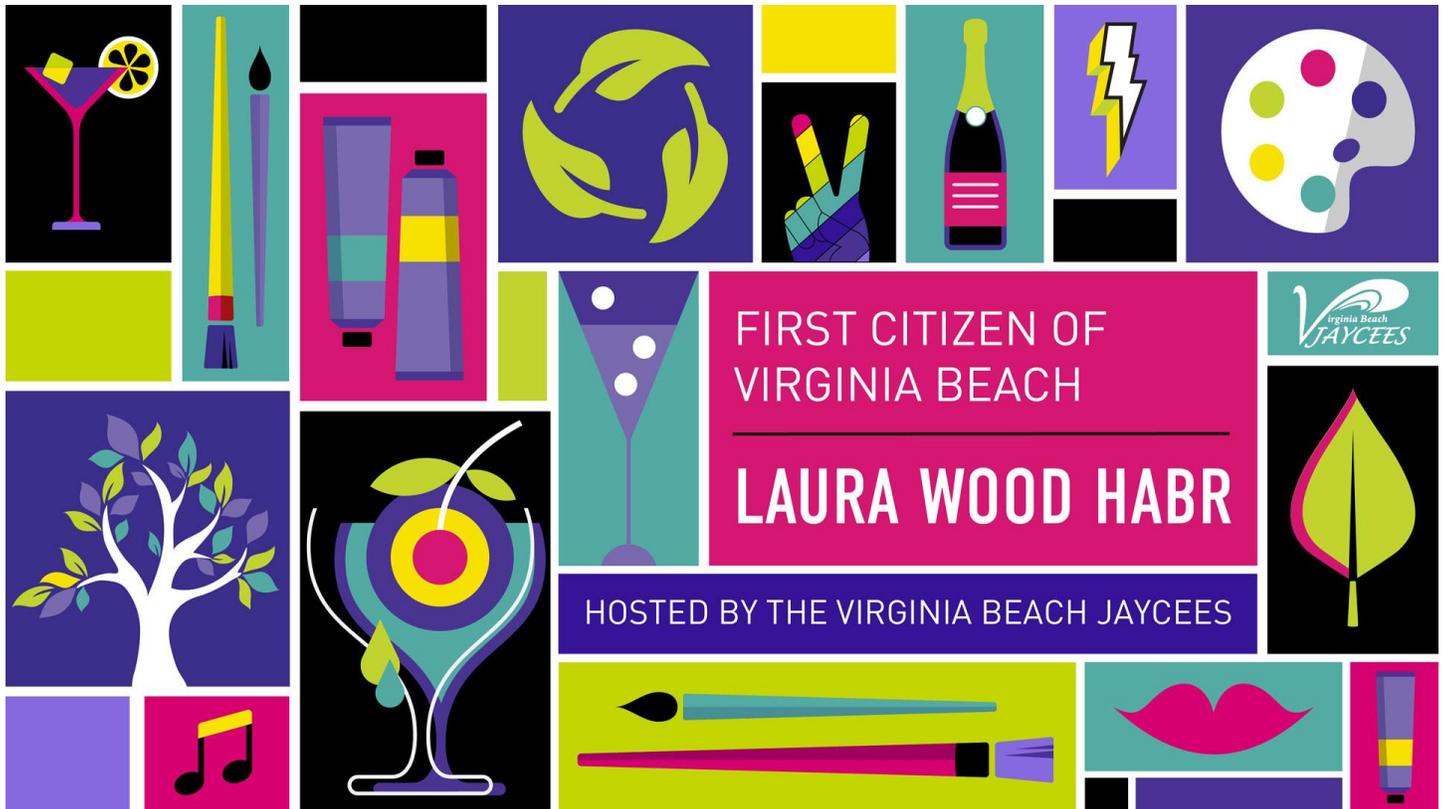
### **First Citizen Award Banquet**

This year's banquet honoring the 68th First Citizen of Virginia Beach will be held on April 22nd, 2019 at the Museum of Contemporary Arts. The Virginia Beach Jaycees are excited to work closely with Laura Habr, this year's honoree, to integrate her many local passions into their evening celebration of her dedication to the city of Virginia Beach. Guests can expect an environmentally friendly program, made possible in part by sourcing with many local vendors for supplies and refreshments.

This year, the evening agenda has specific timing to ensure an optimal flow. Guests are encouraged to arrive on time to not miss the official award presentation:

530pm – 615pm: Opening Reception in the Rodriguez Pavilion  
630pm – 7pm: Program in the Price Auditorium  
7pm-930pm: Dinner in the Atrium & Rodriguez Pavilion

Tickets will be available to purchase by the beginning of March. Details for ticket sales will be published on the VB Jaycees [website](#) as well as on their Facebook [event](#).



Graphic Design by Devon Miller.

Kate Pittman, Executive Director of the ViBe Creative District and longtime friend of Habr’s wrote in her nomination packet, “Laura has worked passionately to improve her community for more than a decade and is an innovative civic leader.” Habr is well-known in the restaurant business where she owns Croc’s on 19th Street with her husband Kal, which is where the VB Jaycees surprised Habr with her selection during the company’s 25th Anniversary/Customer Appreciation party on December 20th.

“Laura’s nomination letters were infused with a level of energy that we haven’t seen in other packets. Her friends and supporters perfectly articulated her passion for projects that center on community and inclusion. From co-founding the Old Beach Farmer’s Market, to hosting a weekly ‘Drag Yourself to Brunch’ at Crocs, to establishing the ViBe Creative District – Laura has proven herself to be a friend of the people,” says First Citizen of Virginia Beach Chair Kayte Hamilton.

Habr serves on a number of boards and committees: Old Beach Farmers Market (co-founder); ViBe Creative District (co-founder); Green Drinks Virginia Beach (founder); Green Resort Eco-Friendly Efficient Neighborhoods Committee; Virginia Beach Restaurant Association; Chair of the Green Resort Ecofriendly Neighbors, Sub-Committee of the Resort Advisory Commission; Founding board member, Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast; and the City of Virginia Beach Resort Area Advisory Committee. In addition, she’s a partner supporter of Virginia Green, Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Museum, Sensible Seafood program, Buy Fresh Buy Local, Hampton Roads Pride, Virginia Arts Festival and many others.

In the following weeks, the VB Jaycees will work closely with Habr to develop an awards ceremony in her honor. Additional information about the First Citizen of Virginia Beach Award and the Virginia Beach Jaycees are available on their website.



Photograph by George Culver. In the three-person shot: on the left is Marissa Nihill, 2017-2018 VB Jaycees President, center is Laura Habr, right is Kayte Hamilton, 2017-2018 First Citizen of Virginia Beach Chairperson.

## **About the Virginia Beach Jaycees First Citizen Award**

Since 1950, the Virginia Beach Jaycees have been hosting and honoring The First Citizen of Virginia Beach Award. To save you the math problem, that's 68 years of acknowledging the excellence of our region's most influential and community-oriented citizens. Mr. James Kontopanos kicked off the inaugural event as the first honoree. Since then, men and women of all ages, backgrounds and contributions have been nominated. Some of the honorees in the past have gone on to hold more prominent positions within the city and state, but our local ceremony has been "the most precious honor" for many. Joining the ranks of some of the most humble and influential people in Virginia Beach is an honor in and of itself.

To be a first citizen, one must meet the following criteria:

- A person who has relentlessly supported local business and citizen empowerment
- Someone who has been a positive role model in the Virginia Beach community
- A unique individual who may have been influential in the growth of the city
- Someone who lives and resides in Virginia Beach

And above all else, this person must embody the United States Jaycees Creed:

"That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life; That the brotherhood of man transcends

the sovereignty of nations; That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise; That Government should be of laws rather than of men; That earth's great treasure lies in human personality; And that service to humanity is the best work of life!"

Story Exchange brings together local neighborhoods to share stories of love, loss and resilience as well as other personal life stories or experiences close to their hearts. From young children to the communities' elders, stories of the human experience will be submitted, chosen and paired with an artist to develop a presentation or exhibit of our most treasured, challenging and lovable moments.

### **About ViBe Creative District**

The ViBe Creative District non-profit is a 501c3 that exists to promote, support, connect, and inspire the creative industries to boost our local economy, grow jobs, and enhance our quality of life. It works to create and revive economic vibrancy in our neighborhood with a remarkable local vibe.

Additionally, ViBe strives to enhance a place of discovery for locals and visitors along with economic vitality to meet the City of Virginia Beach's vision for a quality resort destination. For more information on please visit [www.ViBeCreativeDistrict.org](http://www.ViBeCreativeDistrict.org), email [info@ViBeCreativeDistrict.org](mailto:info@ViBeCreativeDistrict.org) call 757-202-9533 or follow ViBe Creative District on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ViBeCreativeDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/ViBeCreativeDistrict) and Instagram at [www.instagram.com/thevibecreativedistrict/](http://www.instagram.com/thevibecreativedistrict/)

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