



Constance E. Hamilton Award Selection Committee

Councillor Maria Augimeri	Councillor Paula Fletcher
Councillor Ana Bailão	Councillor Mary Fragedakis
Councillor Michelle Holland	Councillor Pam McConnell
Councillor Christin Carmichael Greb	Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon
Councillor Shelley Carroll	Councillor Frances Nunziata
Councillor Janet Davis	Councillor Jaye Robinson
Councillor Sarah Doucette	Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

June 10, 2016

To: Executive Committee

From: Constance E. Hamilton Award Selection Committee

Subject: Recipient – 2016 Constance E. Hamilton Award

Recommendation:

That Toronto City Council confirms the selection made by the Constance E. Hamilton Award Selection Committee comprised of the Women Members of Council that Paola Gomez is the recipient of the 2016 Constance E. Hamilton Award.

Summary:

The Constance E. Hamilton Award was established in 1979 and is named after the first woman elected in 1920 to municipal council in Toronto. The award recognizes person(s) who have made a significant contribution to improving the social, economic, cultural and political status of women in Toronto.

The Selection Committee has reviewed the nominations submitted by the public and selected the following recipient for her contributions toward improving the status of women in Toronto:

Paola Gomez

Paola Gomez has been supporting refugee women in Toronto as a Community Support Worker for many years. Paola Gomez is also a community activist working with women from Latin American backgrounds who have experienced violence. Paola is a member of PEN Canada and a leader within her Writers in Exile group. She offers courses in creative writing for women and enables women who have experienced sexual violence with the ability to speak about their experience and find healing. She has been an advocate for women in her work with organizations like YWCA Toronto and Romero House. She has been a volunteer with Centre of International Justice. She is a leader in the art scene in Toronto and the co-founder of SICK MUSE ART PROJECTS, a program she created to promote self-expression among women and children living in shelters and refugee homes. Through this program, Paola led the first group delivering art workshops at the hotels where Syrian refugees have been living since their arrival to Toronto.

Awards Presentation

The Constance E. Hamilton Award will be presented during the City's Annual Human Rights Awards Ceremony in December when the following awards will also be presented: Aboriginal Affairs Award, the Access Award on Disability Issues, the Pride Award for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Trans and 2-Spirit Issues and the William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam McConnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell
on behalf of the Constance E. Hamilton Award Selection Committee