

May 1, 2023 |  
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# GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING WEEKLY



## NCC Urban Design Challenge 2023



Congratulations to SURP students **Homa Jalili Safarian**, **Makenna Humes**, and **Sara Wehbi**, who have been awarded second place in the 2023 National Capital Commission (NCC) Urban Design Challenge! The team's proposal was recognized for its innovative approach to place-making as a solution to re-stitching the urban fabric along the Sussex Corridor, and the group was particularly commended for their consideration of Indigenous communities, increased opportunities for connections to the Ottawa River, and active mobility improvements. The team will present their proposal at the NCC event on May 24th, 2023. To learn more about the annual competition, please visit the [NCC website](#). And well done Sara, Homa, and Makenna!

## Well Done!

Congratulations to **Nathalia Santos Ocasio**, who successfully defended her PhD thesis on April 17, 2023. Nathalia's thesis, "**Chilean Arpilleras, Social Reproduction and the Struggle Against Coloniality**," was completed under the academic supervision of Dr. Beverley Mullings. The Thesis Examining Committee included Neal Scott, Dan Cohen, Carolyn Prouse, Marcus Taylor (DEVS), Keren Ziaontz (Film.), and Margaret Ramirez (External Examiner). Kudos, Nathalia!



## UPCOMING SUSTAINABLE LIVING SERIES - MAY 4

*Increasing Biodiversity in your Garden with Keystone Plants*

Join Nancy Louwman, Master Gardener and learn about the best plant material that can be used to help sustain viable food webs in our local ecosystems.

**Thursday, May 4, 2023, 2:30 to 3:30 pm.** To register for this event through the HR Learning Catalogue, [click here](#).



# John Smol Receives Vega Medal

Queen's researcher **John Smol** was recognized for his lifetime achievements with the Vega Medal on April 21, 2023. The award, sometimes referred to as the "Nobel Prize in Geography," is conferred by the Swedish Society of Anthropology and Geography (SSAG) every two to three years to an outstanding geographer or anthropologist with international renown. To learn more about Dr. Smol's distinction and his prolific research, please read [Receiving the prestigious Vega Medal](#) in the Queen's Gazette.



## JANE'S WALK FESTIVAL KINGSTON: FRIDAY, MAY 5 TO SUNDAY, MAY 7



Put your walking shoes on! After the COVID break, **Jane's Walk Weekend** is back with a very interesting slate of 17 different walks – something for everyone. Jane's Walk is a global movement of free, citizen-led local walks inspired by legendary urbanist Jane Jacobs. The walks are led by community volunteers who have an interest in the neighbourhood where they live, work, or hang out. They may focus on architecture and heritage, or they may be a personal take on the social history or planning issues of a neighbourhood. Queen's and our department are well represented by walk leaders **Sue Bazely** (PhD candidate, Geography & Planning) and Sean Marrs (PhD candidate, History) leading a walking tour on the French roots of Cataraqui (now Kingston); **Carl Bray** (Geography & Planning) leading a tour of old Sydenham Ward; and Christine Sypnowich (Philosophy Department) with a tour of Barriefield Village. Jane's Walk encourages people to discover unseen aspects of their own communities and use walking as a way to connect with their neighbours.

**Locations:** Various sites throughout Kingston

**Times:** Various times throughout the weekend (5th, 6th, 7th May), rain or shine

**Fee:** Free

**For Details:** <https://janeswalkkingston.wordpress.com/>

**For Updates:** Put your name on our [MailChimp list](#).