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Galway West candidates urged to sign equality manifesto

#EqualityVotesGalway (#EVG) is a consortium of local organisations working collaboratively on equality issues. #EVG work to the values of Community, Decency and Participation which should be at the heart of representation. Since April 2019, #EVG have developed equality manifestos for the general and local elections, attending Galway City Council meetings in an observational capacity and supporting members to access training on equality issues.

On January 31st, #EVG organised an event to which all Galway West candidates standing

for the national election were invited. The #EVG manifesto, which calls for action under five headings – Social Inclusion, Local Development and Community Development; Housing and Accommodation; Climate Action, Recreation and Amenity; Planning, Transport and Infrastructure; and Health – was available for candidates to sign, indicating their commitment to the values and actions.

The event was live streamed by Galway Politics Live, with the candidates and #EVG members discussing equality issues facing the people of Galway. A

parallel process was organised by the Galway Environmental Network, who had produced an environmental manifesto.

#EVG will be following up on those elected who have signed the manifesto to monitor their progress on championing equality issues.

Thanks to all the candidates who signed and participated in the discussions, a list of which is on the Galway City Community Network Facebook page and website, together with the manifesto. The remaining candidates are still urged to sign until February 8th.

Clayton Hotel Galway's Accommodations Team awarded for excellence



Clayton Hotel Galway's Accommodations Team Danusia Antczak, Velimir Makar and Sylwia Kullanda received the IASI's Award for Excellence in Accommodation Services Standards at the IASI awards ceremony at Carlton Hotel Dublin Airport

Accommodations is comprised of many different aspects such as the cleaning of guest rooms, public areas, carpets, furniture, metal wares, et cetera. For many hotels, big and small, the accommodation staff are the unsung heroes of their establishment and more often than not go unnoticed.

They ensure that the rooms are cleaned daily, stocked with in-room amenities and that common areas like the reception and restaurants are presentable, tidy and welcoming.

Although accommodation staff do not necessarily interact with their guests on a daily basis, the quality of their service is critical in moulding the experience and memories their visitors will take with

them when they leave. A guest who has had a wonderful experience at a hotel will most likely return in the future, ensuring customer loyalty for the business.

The role of accommodation staff is vital for any hotel that wants to maintain a high level of success in the hospitality industry. With hotel hygiene being high on a guest's priority list, their opinion can do grave damage to a hotel's reputation if it doesn't meet expectations. Nothing repels guests more than poor housekeeping. A hotel's cleanliness immediately sets the tone for quality, while showing guests how much you care about them and your business.

IASI is a national body representing the professional interest of the

Accommodation industry in Ireland. Its members include Accommodation Managers, Supervisors and all personnel working in the accommodation field. It is very active in promoting best practice standards across.

On January 25, IASI held their awards ceremony at Carlton Hotel Dublin Airport. Clayton Hotel Galway's Accommodations Team received their award for excellence in accommodation services standard. This team works so hard year-round and it was a well deserved moment for the Accommodation Manager Velimir Makar and his outstanding team. They are a remarkable asset to the hotel and are a big reason why Clayton Hotel Galway has so many loyal returning guests.

Awards for Galway designers at Showcase 2020

Showcase Ireland 2020 was held at the RDS, Dublin last week. This four-day trade show is the leading gift show in Ireland with more than 450 craft and designer exhibitors attracting over 5,000 domestic and overseas buyers. Two Galway designers Berina Kelly and Lynsey De Burca were presented with awards for their exceptional products.

Berina Kelly was highly commended for her eye-catching jewellery. "I am thrilled and honoured to be highly commended again this year for my work at Showcase, the standard of design and making in Ireland continues to thrive both nationally and internationally. I will continue to develop a new body of work and look forward to supplying my new and existing customers, the support has been fantastic especially from the Local Enterprise Office and stockists including McCarthys Jewellers and my shop Granny Likes It."

Also recognised in the 'Highly Commended Jewellery' category this year was designer Lynsey De Burca for pieces in her



Berina Kelly receiving her award at Showcase in the RDS with DCCI's managing executive Louise Allen and Chair of the network of LEOs, Oisín Geoghegan. Image: Leon Farrell Photocall Ireland.

new Capsule Collection. "On receiving the award - I was completely surprised and absolutely thrilled! It was an honour to be recognised for work made entirely by hand in the West of Ireland." Showcase has helped to expand the business internationally.

"With Showcase Ireland we have already secured retailers in Germany, France and

the U.S. We aim to work on this momentum and secure new foreign markets. A great start to 2020!"

"The plan for 2020 is to grow and expand the business internationally. We are currently part of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland Driving Export Programme which enables small businesses to ensure export readiness and

explore different routes to overseas markets."

Head of Enterprise for LEO Galway, Breda Fox said "We are proud to support Galway-based designers in any way we can. The standards at Showcase 2020 were exceptionally high so we are particularly delighted to have Berina and Lynsey receive awards this year."



Dave Wensley, business development manager, Galway Bay Golf Resort and Eveanna Ryan, head of sales for Connacht Hospitality Group in Orlando promoting Galway and Galway Bay Golf Resort at the PGA Show.