

Vision Envision

2015 RDA GALA

MORE THAN 850 PEOPLE GATHERED IN the Westin Galleria to celebrate as the Rice Design Alliance honored Uptown Houston with its annual Award for Design Excellence on Saturday, November 14, 2015. The event, VisionEnvision, raised nearly \$500,000 to support the educational programs and publications of RDA in 2016.

Chaired by Juliè Gauthier and Dallas Felder, and underwritten by 4b Technology Group, Cardno Haynes Whaley, DPR Construction, D.E. Harvey Builders, Hines, Walter P Moore, and Louisa Stude Sarofim, the gala brought together professionals in the architecture, engineering, construction, and design industries, as well as developers, academics, philanthropists, and others. Wendy Heger was the event's Underwriting Chair; Chris Promecene was the Graphics Chair.

As thousands of shoppers streamed past inside The Galleria, gala guests arrived at the ballroom to enjoy cocktails and bid on the 112 items donated for the silent auction, chaired by Jennifer Batchelor and Melanie Herz Promecene. The auction included unique experiences like tours of Houston landmarks; catered dinner parties; travel excursions to Marfa, Mexico, and Maui; and objets d'art like photographs, jewelry, and furniture from a wide range of internationally known artists and designers.

Guests then experienced the kinetic installations and lighting effects inside the ballroom. Designed by Environment Chair John Dupuy, 11 tabletop installations comprised 12-foot arcing steel beams from which hung "murmurations" of laser-cut birds. These Alexander Calder-like mobiles gently dipped and swayed overhead as guests enjoyed dinner and a short program during which RDA President Laurence C. Burns, Jr., of Kendall/Heaton Associates presented the award to John Breeding, President of Uptown Houston. A video presentation featuring commentary by Gerald Hines, Ed Wulfe, and Robert Sakowitz, and others illustrated how Uptown Houston has encouraged mixed-use development and enhanced the pedestrian experience and streetscape.



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01 Keiji Asakura and Pam Horton 02 Dilip and Sucheta Chaudhuri 03 Natalie Ramos, Bill Fulton, and Marie Lynn Miranda 04 Terry and Mark Basford 05 Cindy and Larry Burns 06 Gala environment 07 John Breeding, Pam Sutton, Mary Catherine Farrington Miller, Louis Skidmore Jr. 08 Juliè Gauthier and Dallas Felder 09 Chris Hudson 10 Lanesha Anderson and Scott Minnix 11 Jennifer Batchelor and Melanie Herz Promecene 12 Ron Witte and Sarah Whiting 13 David Harvey and Mikki Hebl 14 Charlotte and Larry Whaley 15 Jeff and Wendy Heger 16 Nicola Springer and Raj Mankad 17 Hannah Wang, Lara Hansmann, and Emilia Cavallaro 18 Guest 19 Linda and Dick Sylvan 20 Robert Booth and Andrew Colopy 21 Robert Sakowitz and Marianne Bruvel

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