



**DRIEHAUS DESIGN INITIATIVE PRESENTS**  
**THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL**  
**DRIEHAUS AWARDS FOR FASHION EXCELLENCE**

***A Chic Competition***  
***Featuring 25 Emerging Fashion Design Students***

**CHICAGO (March 2014)** - Driehaus Design Initiative celebrates the achievements of 25 emerging Chicago fashion design students at The Thirteenth Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence on Friday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.

This high energy fashion show competition is judged by industry insiders: Project Runway star Kate Pankoke, creative director at Elaya Vaughn Bridal by Kate Pankoke; Lindsay Segal, co-owner of Luxury Garage Sale; and Alison Siple, a Jeff Award-winning freelance theatre costume designer.

Hosted by Inese and Richard H. Driehaus, The Thirteenth Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence will be held at 700 S. Des Plaines Street. The private space in the warehouse district offers a perfect template for designers to tell the story of their innovative design concepts, from design room to showroom. Their collections illustrate their knowledge of textiles, and excellence in sewing techniques and garment construction.

The elegant fashion fête also includes a pre-party with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, a live auction presented by celebrity auctioneers Bill Kurtis and Donna LaPietra, and a VIP after-party sponsored by Northern Trust. ABC 7's Linda Yu returns as master of ceremonies.

In addition to the top designers winning cash honorariums, one will receive the new Neiman Marcus Distinguished Designer Award with an opportunity to display his or her winning designs at the Michigan Avenue store. Participating local Chicago schools are: Columbia College Chicago, Dominican University, The Illinois Institute of Art, The International Academy of Design & Technology and The School of Art Institute of Chicago.

Proceeds benefit fashion and design endeavors in Chicago.

Reserved seating VIP tickets are \$300 and include access to the after-party. General seating tickets are \$175. For more information please visit [driehausdesign.org](http://driehausdesign.org).

**About Driehaus Design Initiative**

Driehaus Design Initiative, an IRC section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established to promote and encourage design education and to foster public appreciation and understanding of all aspects of fashion design and history. Driehaus Design Initiative contributes proceeds from The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence to support fashion and design endeavors in Chicago.

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