



**DRIEHAUS DESIGN INITIATIVE PRESENTS**  
**THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DRIEHAUS AWARDS FOR FASHION EXCELLENCE**

*Fashion: Frame by Frame*  
*Competition Features 25 Emerging Fashion Design Students*

CHICAGO (March 2015)-- **Driehaus Design Initiative** celebrates the extraordinary achievements of 25 emerging Chicago fashion design students at **The 14th Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence** on **Friday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

Hosted by Inese and Richard H. Driehaus, The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence, themed *Fashion: Frame by Frame*, will be held at **700 S. Des Plaines Street**. The private space in the warehouse district offers a perfect template for designers to show the depth and focus of their concepts, from design room to showroom. Through the lens of these innovative designers, the collections capture their knowledge of textiles, and excellence in sewing techniques and garment construction.

This high-energy runway show design competition is judged by industry insiders: Azeeza Khan, designer & founder, Azeeza; Petra Slinkard, curator of costumes for the Chicago History Museum; and Gibeon Tolbert, designer & principal, Sittar by Gibeon Tolbert.

The elegant fashion fête also includes a pre-party with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, a silent auction, and a VIP after-party. ABC 7's Linda Yu returns as master of ceremonies.

The winner of The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence will receive a prize package to include: a cash honorarium, a garment display at the Saks Fifth Avenue Michigan Avenue store, and a design mentorship coordinated by Saks Fifth Avenue. Second and third place award recipients will also receive cash honoraria.

Deidre Bormes, Director, Fifth Avenue Club will also name one designer the recipient of the Saks Fifth Avenue Achievement in Design Award. The recipient will receive a garment display at the Michigan Avenue store, a mentorship opportunity, and the opportunity to feature their collection on Saks Fifth Avenue social media. All award recipients will be invited for a luncheon at Sophie's at Saks Fifth Avenue and for a guided, informational store tour about fashion retailing, marketing and merchandising.

Participating designers will be invited to join Driehaus Design Initiative and the Chicago History Museum for the Runway to Showroom: Driehaus Business of Fashion Symposium. Industry experts will provide essential tips to help emerging designers elevate their brand and launch and sustain a successful business or career. Students are welcome to bring their portfolios and engage in an open discussion of experience sharing, while receiving beneficial insight and personal advice. A guided behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's costume collection with Curator of Costumes Petra Slinkard and Costume Collection Manager Jessica Pushor will follow the luncheon.

Participating local fashion & design schools are: Columbia College Chicago, Dominican University, The Illinois Institute of Art, Sanford-Brown College and The School of Art Institute of Chicago. Proceeds benefit local fashion and design programs that encourage education and appreciation of fashion design and history in Chicago.

Reserved seating VIP tickets are \$300 and include access to the DJ hosted VIP after-party and the opportunity to meet designers and sponsors, event partners and others celebrating the success of Driehaus Design Initiative. General admission 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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