



THE 14th ANNUAL DRIEHAUS AWARDS FOR FASHION EXCELLENCE
RAISES OVER \$170,000

Over 400 Guests Were in Attendance for this Stylish Evening
Featuring Emerging Chicago Designers

CHICAGO (April 2015) -- Driehaus Design Initiative celebrated the extraordinary achievements of emerging Chicago fashion design students at The 14th Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence on Friday, April 24.

Proceeds from the evening benefit the participating student designers, five fashion and design schools, as well as the Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum, the programs that encourage education and appreciation of fashion design and history in Chicago.

The participating local Chicago schools were: Columbia College Chicago, Dominican University, The Illinois Institute of Art, Sanford-Brown College and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Hosted by Inese and Richard H. Driehaus, The 14th Annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence, themed Fashion: Frame by Frame, was held at 700 S. Des Plaines Street. The private space in the warehouse district offered 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.

The high-energy runway show competition was judged by industry insiders: Azeeza Khan, Designer & Founder of Azeeza; Curator of Costumes at the Chicago History Museum, Petra Slinkard; and Gibeon Tolbert, President of SITTAR by Gibeon Tolbert.

The first place prize of \$7,500 was awarded to Liz Bahl from the Illinois Institute of Art. Deirdre Bormes, Director, Fifth Avenue Club, also selected Bahl as the recipient of the Saks Fifth Avenue Achievement in Design Award. Bahl won the opportunity to display her winning designs at Saks Fifth Avenue Michigan Avenue, and a design mentorship.

The \$5,000 second place prize was awarded to Jennifer Rice from the Art Institute of Chicago, and Rebecca Blanton from Columbia College Chicago received the third place prize of \$2,500.

The fashion fête also included a pre-party with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, a silent auction, and a VIP after-party. Linda Yu from ABC 7 Chicago returned as master of ceremonies.

Participating designers are invited to join Driehaus Design Initiative and the Chicago History Museum for the Runway to Showroom: Driehaus Business of Fashion Symposium on May 13. Industry experts will provide essential tips to help emerging designers elevate their brand and

launch and sustain a successful career. Students are encouraged 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.

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.

For more information please visit driehausdesign.org.

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