



THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY DRIEHAUS AWARDS FOR FASHION EXCELLENCE
RAISES OVER \$140,000

430 Guests Attend Stylish Evening Featuring Chicago's Emerging Fashion Design Students and Celebrating the Success of Alumni Designers

CHICAGO (May 2016) -- Driehaus Design Initiative celebrated the achievements of emerging Chicago fashion design students at The 15th Anniversary Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence on Friday, April 29. The show, themed *Reflections*, also spotlighted six student alumni who have since launched successful fashion design ventures.

Proceeds from the evening benefit the participating fashion and design school programs that encourage education and appreciation of fashion design and history in Chicago. Those schools are: Columbia College Chicago, Dominican University, The Illinois Institute of Art - Chicago and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The show took place in a private space in the warehouse district. The students' innovative collections mirrored their knowledge of textiles, excellence in sewing techniques and garment construction.

Judges were industry insiders: **Caryn Klein**, Costume Director, Steppenwolf Theatre Company; **Kpoene' Kofi-Nicklin**, Creative Director, Mignonette Bridal; **Wendy Krimins**, General Manager, Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue; and **Kristin Larson**, Chicago Correspondent, *WWD*.

The first place prize of \$7,500 was awarded to Alante C. Baugh from The Illinois Institute of Art - Chicago. The \$5,000 second place prize went to Sharrell Smith from Columbia College Chicago; and Kelsey Kasom from Columbia College Chicago received the third place prize of \$2,500.

Wendy Krimins, general manager, Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, selected Hayley Jill Hogan from Columbia College Chicago as the recipient of the Neiman Marcus Distinguished Designer Award. Hogan will now have the opportunity to display her winning designs in the windows of Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, in addition to one-on-one meetings with a designer partner and a Neiman Marcus senior buyer or executive.

Additionally, participating students may join Driehaus Design Initiative and the Chicago History Museum on May 17, 2016 for the *Runway to Showroom: Driehaus Business of Fashion Symposium*. The symposium helps emerging designers elevate their brand and launch a sustainable and successful business or career. Students may bring their portfolios and engage in

an open discussion of experience sharing, while receiving beneficial insight and tailored, personal advice. A behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's costume collection with Costume Curator Petra Slinkard and Costume Collection Manager Jessica Pushor is included.

To reflect on the past 15 years of fostering fashion design success, Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence alumni sent their work down the runway to showcase their career accomplishments since placing in the fashion competition. Alumni included:

- **Hector-Javier Monàrrez**, 2009 First Place Winner, graduate of International Academy of Design and Technology-Chicago;
- **Fraley Le**, 2010 First Place Winner, graduate of International Academy of Design and Technology-Chicago;
- **Laura Lanzerotte**, 2012 Second Place Winner, graduate of Dominican University;
- **Gabriel Saldana**, 2013 First Place Winner, graduate of Columbia College Chicago;
- **Liz Bahl**, 2015 First Place Award Winner, graduate of The Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago; and
- **Samantha Sipos**, 2015 Honorable Mention Award Winner, graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

About Driehaus Design Initiative

Driehaus Design Initiative, a 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.

###