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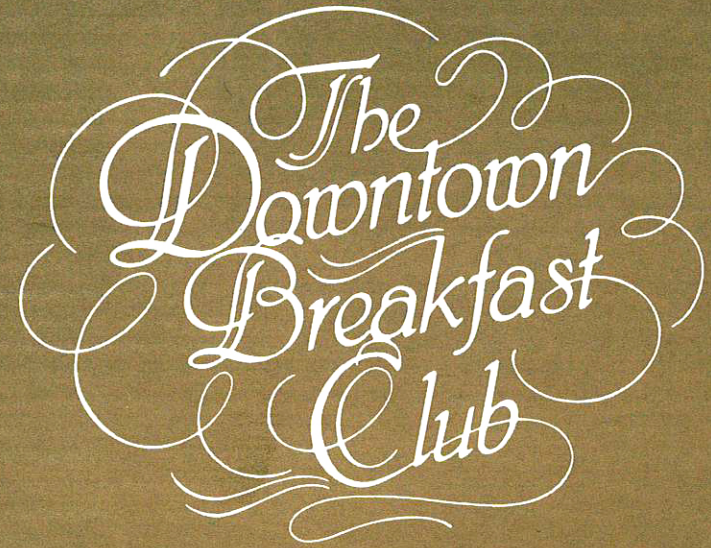
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Faye Washington

YWCA of Greater Los Angeles

John Whitaker

Piper Rudnick



25th Annual Roses and Lemon Awards Breakfast

Thursday, April 7th, 2005
Millennium Biltmore Hotel
Los Angeles

The Downtown Breakfast Club is an organization of professionals whose main purpose is to recognize, foster and encourage the orderly and planned growth of downtown Los Angeles. The group consists of individual representatives of all the major fields of development--real estate, banking international investment, architects & engineers, urban planners, investment brokers, insurance, development organizations and governmental agencies. Meeting on a bi-monthly basis, the group maintains a profile of current business activity through featured guest speakers as recruited by its members. This type of professional interface encourages and supports sound principles of developing a better quality of life for downtown Los Angeles.

WELCOME BACK!

Jim Rabe, Event Co-Chair

OPENING REMARKS

Linda Sybrandt, Club President

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Donald Battjes, Event Co-Chair, Presenter
Bill Feathers

25 YEARS OF DOWNTOWN ROSES

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lauren Meléndrez & Sue Laris, Presenters

Downtown BIDS

Chrysalis

BACK TO WORK

Gary Erickson & John Given, Presenters

Library Tower

City Hall Project Restore

DINING OUT

Lori Tierny & John Whitaker, Presenters

Engine Company No. 28

The Patina Group

CREATURE COMFORTS

Lynn Kiouss & David Prosser, Presenters

Downtown News

MTA

Ketchum YMCA

LIVE IT UP!

Gary Conrad & Diana Laing, Presenters

Old Bank District

Medici Apartments

SCHOOL DAZE

Faye Washington & Bob Taylor, Presenters

Central Library

Inner City Arts

Ninth Street School

STANDING OVATIONS

Michelle Isenberg & Steve Marcussen, Presenters

Disney Concert Hall

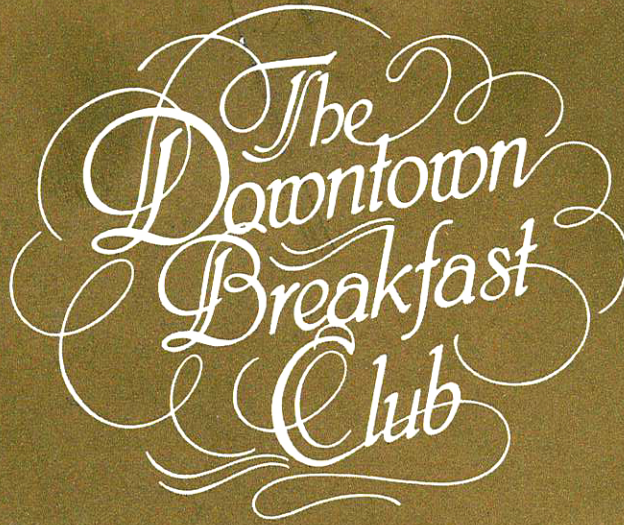
Staples Center

MOCA

LEMONADE OVER THE YEARS

Tom Gilmore, Presenter

Adjournment



The
Downtown
Breakfast
Club

You are cordially invited to the

25th Annual

ROSES AND LEMON

Awards Breakfast

in the Crystal Room

Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles

Thursday, April 7th, 2005

Reception 7:30 am

Breakfast 8 am

R.S.V.P to your Host

A Quarter Century of Roses and Lemons

Breakfast Club Honors 17 Projects, and Puts the Squeeze on Homelessness

BY CHRIS COATES

STAFF WRITER

For the 25th Roses and Lemon awards breakfast, which took place last Thursday at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, the Downtown Breakfast Club (DBC) made a twist on the traditional: Rather than honor the best projects of the year, it feted the triumphs of the past quarter century.

AWARDS SHOW

But every rose has its, er, lemon, and the DBC was just as generous, pointing out a scad of areas that need improvement. Somehow, they even got public-television icon Huell Howser into the mix.

More than 400 Downtown Los Angeles professionals showed up at the breakfast, where an all-volunteer group put on an event full of blaring trumpets. In total, the DBC recognized 17 entities that have made significant contributions to the development of the community.

"This day is very special to us because frankly it's hard to believe we've been doing this for 25 years," said Club see *Roses and Lemon*, page 10



photo by Gary McCarthy

Bill Feathers of the Downtown Breakfast Club receives a Special Recognition honor from the group, which held its 25th Roses and Lemon awards last week.

Roses and Lemon

Continued from page 1

President Linda Sybrandt. "We've learned a lot about the process [and] the back steps of the evolution of Downtown."

In the social services category, Roses went to Downtown's business improvement districts and homeless services provider Chrysalis, both of which have changed the neighborhood. Recipients of the "Back to Work" Roses were structures that define the look of Downtown: the restoration of City Hall and the construction of Library Tower. Presenter John Given noted that the two are the type of buildings that "bind and heal the fabric of the city."

"Dining Out" Roses, created to honor those who helped turn Downtown from a lunch-only area into a place with after-work and weekend dining destinations, went to Financial District comfort food mecca Engine Co. No. 28, opened in 1989 by Linda Griego. The other recipient was Joachim Splichal's Patina Group, the company behind numerous Downtown white tablecloth eateries.

In the "Creature Comforts" category, which honored community fixtures, Roses went to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, *Los Angeles Downtown News* and the Ketchum-Downtown YMCA. "Live It Up" Roses, for those who have propelled housing, were given to developer Geoff Palmer for his Medici Apartments in City West and Tom Gilmore for the Old Bank District development.

Recognizing educational institutions, "School Daze" Roses were presented to the Central Library, arts education group Inner-City Arts, and the Ninth Street School, which serves numerous children from the Fashion District and Skid Row. Awards in the "Standing Ovation" category went to developers and facilitators of three key cultural projects: Walt Disney Concert Hall, Staples Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art. "These projects have brought the world to Downtown L.A.," said presenter Steve Marcussen.

The Downtown Breakfast Club also honored Bill Feathers, one of the organization's founders.

Sour Sites

When it came time for the Lemon, a video screen lit up, and the crowd laughed through a taped vignette of past recipients, led by Gilmore and Howser. With Howser in full wow!-aw-shucks mode, and Gilmore in overacting mode (pointed out by Howser), they traipsed by such sour sites as the subterranean Los Angeles Mall ("I love to come down here on sunny days!" chirped Howser) and the jarring Triforium sculpture in the Civic Center. At the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Howser gazed up at the fortress-like entrance and mused, "You can look at this wall of concrete and

be inspired!"

The actual Lemon went to the city and county governments for failing to address Downtown's homeless problem. They also received the Lemon in 2002.

"We have got to start dealing with the homeless problem in Downtown L.A.," said Gilmore, who also called on the business community to step up on the matter.

But Gilmore was quick to point out that all is not lost for past Lemon-earners. He noted that St. Vincent's Jewelry Center, for example, was met with skepticism when it opened several years ago. Today, the cove of shops and eateries is breathing new life into the Jewelry District.

"Sometimes it can be made into lemonade," he said. "We're trying to encourage people."

Contact Chris Coates at chris@downtownnews.com.



(all l to r) Downtown Breakfast Club President Linda Sybrandt, presenter John Whitaker, Dining Out award recipients Linda Griego and Julie Priceman, event Co-Chair Jim Rabe, presenter Lori Tierry.



Rabe, Live It Up! award recipient Jerri Perrone, presenters Diana Laing and Gary Conrad, Sybrandt.



Rabe, School Daze award recipients Mary Christ, Bob Bates and Fontayne Holmes, presenters Bob Taylor and Faye Washington, Sybrandt.



Presenter Sue Laris, Social Services award recipients Carol Schatz and Adlai Wertman, presenter Lauren Meléndrez, Sybrandt.



Rabe, presenter John Given, Back to Work award recipients Nabih Yousef and Michele Reibel, presenter Gary Erickson, Sybrandt.



Rabe, Sybrandt, Creature Comforts award recipients Sue Laris, Stuart Ketchum and John Cato, presenter David Prosser.



Presenters and Standing Ovations award recipients from the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Museum of Contemporary Art and Staples Center.

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photos by Gary McCarthy