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ROSES AND LEMON AWARDS BREAKFAST

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Crystal Ballroom Millenium 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, from real estate, banking, international investment, architects & engineers, urban planners, investment brokers, insurance, development organizations to 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.

www.DowntownBreakfastClub.com



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SPECIALTHANKS

Gary Leonard, LA Downtown News; Stephanie Stevens;

Catherine Ryan; Leslie Guettler; Scott Weber

WELCOME

Patrick Spillane, President

OPENING REMARKS

Patrick Spillane & Charlie Muttillo

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Wade Killefer, Presenter

Foundation Award

Michelle Isenberg & John Whitaker, Presenters

YWCA Greater Los Angeles Urban Campus

PRESENTATION OF ROSE AWARDS

HOME SWEET HOME (Affordable)

Kristina Raspe & Marty Borko, Presenters

Ford Apartments • Huntington Apartments • New Genesis Apartments

HOME SWEET HOME (Market Rate)

June Bardwil & Clare De Briere, Presenters

APEX • Beacon Lofts • 7+Bridge

CALLING ALL FOODIES

Kathy Faulk & Gary Conrad, Presenters

Bestia • Le Ka • The Parish

DOWNTOWN'S ROSE GARDEN

Melani Smith & Mike Savage, Presenters

Grand Park • FIGat7th • Metro Expo Line • Space Shuttle Endeavour

IN MEMORIAM

Shirley Spinelli, Presenter

PRESENTATION OF LEMON AWARD

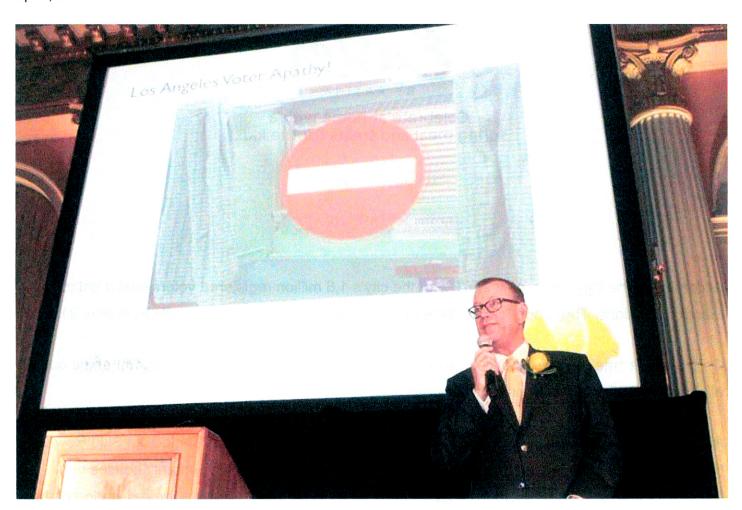
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FEATURED

Roses for Them, a Lemon for...You?

Downtown Breakfast Club Honors Projects, Zaps Low Voter Turnout

by Ryan Vaillancourt, Staff Writer Apr 4, 2013



Downtown Breakfast Club host Hal Bastian announced that the annual lemon anti-award went to voter apathy.

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - For more than three decades, the Downtown Breakfast Club has honored key real estate and social service projects with Rose awards, while zapping blight spots and civic disappointments with its bitter Lemon prize.

This year, however, the group of Downtown business stakeholders didn't take a particular building or blight zone to task. Instead, at the 33rd annual Roses and Lemon Awards breakfast on Thursday, April 4, the group squeezed its lemon juice on you. Well, most of you. More precisely, the group gave the Lemon anti-award to the roughly 80% of eligible Angelenos who did not cast a ballot in the March elections.

"We are very sad about voter apathy," said Hal Bastian, a club member and director of economic development at the Downtown Center Business Improvement District, who handed out the award with club member Jim White.



According to the City Clerk, only 20.79% of the city's 1.8 million registered voters cast a ballot in the March 5 elections. The runoff to determine the next mayor and several other offices is May 21.

On the sweet smelling side, the club gave Roses to two housing projects, a restaurant and a quartet of civic and business developments.

Among affordable housing projects completed in the past year, the group singled out Skid Row Housing Trust's New Genesis Apartments, a mixed income complex that primarily houses the formerly homeless. SRO Housing Corp.'s Ford Hotel was nominated, as was the renovation of the Huntington Apartments.

In the market-rate housing category, the club recognized three recently completed buildings: The Beacon Lofts condominiums at Fourth and Alameda streets, Linear City's 7+Bridge apartment complex at Seventh Street and Santa Fe Avenue, and ST Residential's Apex at Ninth and Flower streets. The rose went to the Beacon Lofts.

"it really is a work of passion for us to have done this," said Peklar Pilavjian, a member of the development team. "This award really encourages us to do more."

Bestia, a restaurant helmed by chef Ori Menashe that is tucked into the 7+Bridge apartment complex, won the Rose in the food category, beating nominees The Parish and Le Ka.

A Rose in Memoriam



The club also handed flowers to four other transformative Downtown projects: Grand Park, the renovated FIGgat7th shopping complex, the Metro Expo Line and the California Science Center's new home for the Space Shuttle Endeavor.

The Thursday event included a tribute to the late public television host Huell Howser, who several years ago helped the club craft a spoof video that mocked some Lemon recipients.

"With Huell's passing in January, we lost someone who genuinely cared about the people and places he showcased," said club member Shirley Spinelli. "He never put himself above the story. He just wanted people to cherish the world around him as much as he did."

The club conceived the Lemon largely as a way to pressure property owners, and often city officials, to spruce up blight spots. It sometimes works. In 2011, the club drizzled some citrus on the city for allowing the landscaping that surrounds the \$440 million Police Administration Building to fall into disarray.

The club called out the site for overgrown palm fronds, sickly plants and weeds. Now, the city is in the midst of a major replanting and maintenance effort, or "making lemonade out of lemons," Bastian said.

While voter apathy was the official Lemon recipient, the club tsk-tsk'd the city for the quickly deteriorating green bike lane on Spring Street, and shook its finger at property owners who don't fix storefront windows damaged by acid wash used by vandals.

Special recognition Roses went to Jan Perry for her years representing Downtown on the City Council, Faye Washington, CEO of the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, for spearheading the creation of the YWCA Job Corps Campus, and to veteran Downtown public relations executive Dick Lewis.

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