Chicago Architecture Foundation’s special 50th Anniversary Gala honors Bob Wislow and Sterling Bay

Chicago Architecture Foundation’s 50th Anniversary Gala at the Hilton Chicago celebrates real estate visionaries for their dedication and design contributions to the city

What: Chicago Architecture Foundation’s (CAF) 41st Annual Gala honors leading real estate professional and community civic leader Bob Wislow, and real estate investment firm Sterling Bay. As the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary, it recognizes the dedicated and passionate individuals who actively support the future of design in Chicago.

Bob Wislow is the Chairman of CBRE/US Equities Realty, LLC. As Chairman, Bob spearheaded the company’s ongoing development and growth, including U.S. Equities Realities’ expansion into Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. In 2006, Wislow was honored with the Urban Land Institute of Chicago’s prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2011, was awarded the NAIOP Chicago Awards for Excellence presented to an individual who exhibits the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. He has shown dedicated service to the community, and has achieved longevity and success within the commercial real estate industry.

Wislow is an avid arts supporter and longtime dedicated steward for civic engagement in Chicago, serving on the boards of many organizations and institutions, including the Chicago Library Foundation, Rush University Medical Center, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, and as former Chair of the Chamber of Commerce; the only real estate professional to hold that position.

As CAF’s Corporate Honoree, real estate investment firm Sterling Bay will be recognized for excellence in property investment innovation, executing projects that illustrate the next generation of real estate. The firm’s creative approach to development is evident in the reimagined, modernized spaces of businesses in the city. The firm had a vision of the Fulton Market district as a bustling area, built out of the historic industrial remnants that stood before. Some of Sterling Bay’s developments include the new Hillshire Brands headquarters and regional headquarters for Google, as well as prominent hotels, retail and office spaces, and residences. Sterling Bay’s signature aesthetic and its impact on the West Loop Fulton Market neighborhood, is quickly establishing its design legacy in Chicago.

In 2013, Sterling Bay was honored by the Chicago chapter of the Commercial Real Estate Development Association as the Developer of the Year, and in 2015, the firm was awarded with the Deal of the Year and Redevelopment of the Year awards at the Annual Chicago Commercial Real Estate Awards.

Guests will enjoy an elegant evening at the beautiful International Ballroom at the Hilton Chicago; cocktail attire rather than black-tie. Dinner will be followed by dancing and live entertainment with a performance from Hey Jimmy!, a premier party dance band based out of Chicago. On display will be a visually stunning large format projection design from acclaimed artist Norman Kelley, a design and architecture collaborative between Carrie Norman and Thomas Kelley.
Raffles, live paddle raise and silent auctions will offer a variety of prizes, dining and shopping experiences, cultural events, original artwork items and vacation packages, including a Nantucket vacation from Richard Driehaus in his Victorian residence in Massachusetts.

Guests will also have the chance to participate in a live auction paddle raise to support the publishing of the reimagined Wacker Manual, a graphic novel being commissioned by CAF encouraging young people to submit designs for innovative interpretation of the Wacker Manual (initially published in 1911). This novel will engage young people in understanding ways they can serve as stewards for their city and enable CAF to bring a valuable resource to the civic education arena and align the organization’s urban planning curricula.

Additional prizes and packages have been generously provided from local businesses, including: Goose Island, London House Hotel, Godfrey Hotel, Broadway in Chicago, Steppenwolf Theater, SPiN Chicago, FEW Spirits, Laurent-Perrier, Driehaus Museum, 360 Chicago at the Hancock and Maria Pinto, among others.

CAF inspires people to discover why design matters. Funds generated from the annual Gala support the organization’s efforts to maintain and expand youth educational programs, tours, lectures and exhibitions.

**Who:** Bob Wislow and Sterling Bay

**When:** Friday, April 8, 6 - 11:00pm
6:00pm reception; 7:00pm dinner; 9pm paddle auction

**Where:** Hilton Chicago, International Ballroom, 720 South Michigan Ave.

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The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. CAF pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions and youth and adult education programs. A permanent exhibition, *Chicago Model*, includes a highly detailed scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. For further information visit [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org) or call 312.922.3432; become a Facebook fan at [www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture](http://www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture) or follow on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture](http://www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture).