

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

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THE CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER'S ANNUAL GALA, DESIGNING FUTURES, RAISED \$567,000 TO FUND DESIGN EDUCATION FOR UNDERSERVED CHICAGO YOUTH

Civic and Corporate Leaders Fund Pathways to Design, Engineering and Construction Careers

Chicago, IL (4.5.2019) — The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) hosted its 44th Annual Benefit Gala: [Designing Futures](#), Thursday, April 4, 2019 at The Hyatt Regency Chicago, next door to its new home at 111 East Wacker. Designing Futures, the educational nonprofit's signature fundraising event, drew nearly 600 Chicago corporate and civic leaders and raised \$567,000 to ensure that Chicago, the "city of architecture," passes its rich design legacy to the next generation through education programs that provide underserved Chicago youth a path to careers in architecture, design, engineering and construction.

The annual fundraiser was the first since the Chicago Architecture Center opened at its new, high profile home steps from Michigan Avenue and above the dock for The CAFC River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. The CAC, with powerful exhibits in more than 9,000 square feet of gallery space, has introduced an exciting set of experiences that inspire people to discover why design matters. The funds raised on April 4, will help expand its unique set of design, urban planning and civic engagement projects.

"Chicagoans have really stepped up to support the CAC's expansion of design career opportunities for underserved Chicago youth," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of CAC. "Our honorees tonight are three examples of leaders who back innovation in real estate development, construction, architecture and design -- leaders who know that future innovation depends on the talent of Chicago youth and their access to education."

The CAC's award-winning design education programs are part of a growing, Chicago-wide commitment to create opportunities for young people in every neighborhood. [Girls Build!](#) (ages 11-14) and [Teen Fellows](#) (ages 15-17) programs teach foundational design skills, public speaking and professionalism. They are part of a larger set of educational programs for all ages and skill levels from preschool through college prep. Some young Chicagoans who have benefited from these programs were featured in a [video that premiered at the gala](#).

In August 2018, Chicagoans embraced the new CAC. 5,400 people explored the Center over opening weekend. To date, over 48,000 people have visited our enhanced exhibit experience. The CAC and its expanded exhibits have created an environment that elevates all of the CAC's activities including tours, public programs and design education. The CAC's beautifully design spaces and exhibits engages people from all walks of life and levels of design expertise. Curious

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out-of-town travelers and design devotees eager to learn more about Chicago's design legacy explore the CAC alongside young design professionals and leading architects from Chicago and around the world. Young Chicagoans interested in a design career or eager to build a better Chicago are at the heart of our mission and they explore all the possibilities from their design education home base, the ArcelorMittal Design Studio. Each year, the CAC serves between 30,000 and 45,000 kids, families and students with innovative design education experiences..

In 2019, the CAC is building on the energy and enthusiasm from supporters and the public at our 2018 opening. In 2018, supporters raised \$12.4 million for the new CAC. Those funds were used for the design and construction of the center and for the creation of the exhibits. \$1.5 million of the total helped create fresh public programs for our expanding audiences. Among these are the multi-year masterclass in the spirit of Vincent Scully, [The Brilliance of American Architecture](#) and a thought-leader symposium developed around our exhibit on future cities, [From Me to We](#). A second thought-leader symposium on Megadevelopments is planned for June. New education initiatives include Turner Career Pathways, that helps teens explore careers in architecture, construction, engineering and design. In January, the City of Chicago asked the CAC to host a [pop-up exhibit of O'Hare Global Terminal architectural models](#) created by five finalists for the airport's \$8.5 billion expansion. The pop-up exhibit drew a steady stream of visitors and underscored the CAC's enlarged civic role.

Each year during the Gala evening program CAC recognizes Chicago innovators. This year, three are recognized for their impact on civic engagement in Chicago. Theodore J. Novak, a Partner of DLA Piper, received the CAC Catalyst Award. Two companies deeply involved in the creation of the CAC received CAC Corporate Awards: Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture and Turner Construction.

About the Honorees

Theodore J. Novak, DLA PIPER

Catalyst Award Recipient

Ted Novak is one of the country's most highly regarded real estate and land use attorneys. His extensive experience with administrative, legislative and judicial processes has been instrumental in the acquisition, disposition, condemnation, rezoning and development of all types of property. Ted has vast litigation experience in trial courts, which includes arguing before the Illinois Supreme and appellate courts on numerous occasions. He's handled some of the most significant and controversial real estate and land use projects in the Midwest. His impressive client list includes Morton Salt, the University of Chicago, the owner of Willis Tower

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and many other large stock-exchange-listed companies and individual property owners and developers.

ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL ARCHITECTURE

Corporate Award Recipient

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (AS+GG) was founded in 2006 by partners Adrian Smith, Gordon Gill and Robert Forest. The firm is dedicated to the design of high-performance, energy efficient and sustainable architecture on an international scale. AS+GG approaches each project—regardless of size or scale—with an understanding that design has a unique power to influence civic life. Among those projects is the Chicago Architecture Center.

TURNER

Corporate Award Recipient

Turner is a North America-based, international construction services company and is a leading builder in diverse market segments. With a staff of 6,000 employees, the company completes \$12 billion of construction on 1,500 projects each year. Turner offers clients the accessibility and support of a local firm with the stability and resources of a multinational organization. The company has earned recognition for undertaking large, complex projects, fostering innovation, embracing emerging technologies, and making a difference for their clients, employees and community.

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[CAC Gala: Designing Futures Digital Media Kit](#)

ABOUT CAC

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC), formerly the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF), is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. As an education leader in architecture and design, The CAC is a hub for everything architecture in Chicago offering tours, programs, exhibitions, field trips, curricula and online tools that are part of a dynamic learning journey for all ages. Proceeds from CAC's tours and store, as well as grants, sponsorships and donations, support this educational mission. For more information, visit www.architecture.org.

