

# Annual Gala and Honor Award



NATIONAL  
BUILDING  
MUSEUM

# Distinguished Network of Thought Leaders



2025



1995 Honor Award to Lady Bird Johnson



1996 Honor Award to Cindy and Jay Pritzker

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

Now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year, the National Building Museum’s annual Gala gathers business, political, and cultural leaders from around the region and the country, all sharing a deep commitment to the quality of the built world—the places where we live, work, and play.

Held each spring in the Museum’s storied Great Hall, this fundraising event represents a singular opportunity in the nation’s capital to socialize with real estate developers, architects, lenders, investors, engineers, and brokers in Greater Washington’s business community. One of the District’s most spectacular fundraising events, its enduring appeal remains the meaningful connections our attendees make with each other.

The presentation of the Honor Award stands at the center of the evening’s program. The Museum instituted the Honor Award in 1986 to recognize individuals and organizations that have shaped America’s built heritage, defined our culture, and developed our communities.

From Lady Bird Johnson and the Rockefeller Foundation to JBG SMITH and United Technologies, recipients are chosen from a wide variety of backgrounds, illuminating the many fields that impact the built environment. Individually each recipient is exceptional. Collectively, their legacy is profound.

The evening also features an extended cocktail party and celebratory After Party, providing increased opportunities to mingle and network. The theme is Garden Party, ensuring a festive atmosphere.

## Celebrating Innovation



Elizabeth Brink and Jordan Goldstein accept the 2025 Honor Award on behalf of Gensler.

## Luminary Trustees

Represented on the National Building Museum’s Board of Trustees is a diverse range of 40+ executives from architecture and design firms, general contractors, developers, engineering firms, and others, as well as ex officio trustees from cultural organizations such as the Library of Congress, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the General Services Administration. Their experience helps guide our Mission.

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

David Kohler and Laura Kohler accept the 2023 Honor Award on behalf of Kohler and the late Herbert V. Kohler, Jr., with Board Chair Anthony Greenberg and President and Executive Director Aileen Fuchs.



“It is an...honor for our company to be recognized by this national treasure that celebrates a profession and an art form that has fascinated me for as long as I can remember.”

—Michael D. Eisner, April 2001, then CEO, The Walt Disney Company

“The National Building Museum is a true treasure for Washington, D.C., and our nation. Exhibitions at the museum tell the stories of the world we build for ourselves. I am grateful to them for inspiring Americans to preserve our country’s historic buildings.”

—Mrs. Laura Bush, April 2014, Former First Lady



2014 Honor Award to Mrs. Laura Bush

999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

## Past Recipients

- 2025** Gensler
- 2024** Marriott International
- 2023** Kohler
- 2022** Arup
- 2021** Skidmore, Owings and Merrill
- 2019** JBG SMITH and Washington Housing Initiative
- 2018** Madison Marquette and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
- 2017** Brookfield Properties and the National Endowment for the Arts
- 2016** CoStar Group, DAVIS Construction, and Casey Trees
- 2015** Judith Rodin and The Rockefeller Foundation, STUDIOS Architecture, and Capital Bikeshare
- 2014** Mrs. Laura Bush and The National Trust for Historic Preservation
- 2013** Turner Construction Company
- 2012** Urban Land Institute
- 2011** Celebrating Our Past, Building Our Future
- 2010** A Salute to Civic Innovators: Perkins+Will; Founders of the New Orleans Habitat Musicians’ Village—Harry Connick, Jr., Branford Marsalis, Ann Marie Wilkins, and Jim Pate; U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon
- 2009** A Salute to Visionaries in Sustainability: S. Richard Fedrizzi and the U.S. Green Building Council; Mayor Richard M. Daley and the City of Chicago; Majora Carter; Louis Chênevert and United Technologies
- 2008** The Associated General Contractors of America
- 2007** Related
- 2006** Clark Construction Group, LLC
- 2005** Forest City Enterprises
- 2004** General Services Administration
- 2003** Major League Baseball and The National Football League
- 2002** DuPont
- 2001** Michael D. Eisner and The Walt Disney Company
- 2000** Gerald D. Hines
- 1999** Harold W. McGraw, Jr., Harold McGraw III, and The McGraw-Hill Companies
- 1998** Stephen and Riley Bechtel and The Bechtel Group
- 1997** Community Builders of Washington, D.C.: Morris Cafritz; Charles E. Smith; Charles A. Horsky; Oliver T. Carr, Jr.
- 1996** Cindy and Jay Pritzker
- 1995** Lady Bird Johnson
- 1994** James A. Johnson and Fannie Mae
- 1993** J. Carter Brown
- 1992** The Civic Leadership of Greater Pittsburgh
- 1991** The Rockefeller Family
- 1990** IBM Corporation
- 1989** Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan
- 1988** James W. Rouse

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025



2001 Honor Award to Michael D. Eisner



Emcee Johnetta Cole in 2018



2010 Honor Award to Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis



## Join Us

Proceeds from the gala benefit the National Building Museum and its important mission to inspire curiosity about the world we design and build. Your philanthropic investment facilitates dialogue in our nation's capital about the impact architecture, engineering, and design have on society and culture. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, a portion of your donation is also tax-deductible.

A wide range of sponsorship opportunities are available, from high profile tables to individual tickets. For organizations that are out of town, tribute ads are an attractive option. Benefits include prominent brand recognition in all materials, as well as the opportunity to invite clients and VIPs to enjoy a memorable event. Past attendees and sponsors agree—the Gala is not only an extraordinary evening of inspiration and entertainment, it is a unique and high profile networking event.

For more information about how to participate, contact **Julie Rhoad**, Vice President of External Affairs and Development, at **202.849.2489**. or [jrhoad@nbm.org](mailto:jrhoad@nbm.org).



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