


 Leadership
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insider

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Websites:

www.leadershipdallas.org

www.dallaschamber.org/leadership

Distinguished Alumni Award

Linda Custard Receives Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009

This year marks the 20th anniversary for the Leadership Dallas Distinguished Alumni Award. The recipient for 2009 is Linda Custard, a member of the inaugural Leadership Dallas class.

Linda Custard is the General Partner of Custard/Pitts Land and Cattle Company, a limited partnership. Mrs. Custard received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mills College, Oakland, California and her Master of Business Administration from SMU's Cox School of Business. As a Trustee of SMU, Mrs. Custard serves on the Academic Affairs Committee, the Audit Committee, The Second Century Committee, and chairs the Student Affairs Committee.

In 2007, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU. In 2008, she was honored by the YWCA as one of the 100 women who have helped shape the history of Dallas. Mrs. Custard is a Life Trustee of The Hockaday School and former Chairman of the Board. The Upper School wing is named in her honor. She also served as a Trustee of St. Mark's School of Texas and the Lamplighter School. Currently, Mrs. Custard is a Trustee of the Hoblizelle Foundation and the Dedman Foundation, and a Life Trustee of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. She is a Director of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Foundation and Chair of the President's Advisory Board. In 2001, she received the Dallas Historical Society Award for Excellence in Arts Leadership and was selected Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Executives. In 2004, she was selected a Distinguished Alumna of the SMU Cox School of Business.

In 2005, she received the Maura Award for "Women Helping Women" and she received the Outstanding Trustee Award from the SMU Students Association. In 2006, she received the Robert H. Dedman Award for Philanthropy and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Junior League of Dallas in honor of its 85th Anniversary celebration. In 2007, she was given the Susan G. Komen Foundation Founders Award. She serves on the boards of the Dallas Theater Center, where she is a Life Trustee, and The Dallas Opera. Mrs. Custard is on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army and Crystal Charity Ball. A graduate of the Inaugural class of Leadership Dallas 1976, she is a member of the Dallas Assembly. She is a former President of the Junior League of Dallas, The Dallas Woman's Club, the Community Council of Greater Dallas & Charter 100. Mrs.

Custard and her husband, William A, Custard, reside in Dallas and have three adult children and four grandchildren.

Congratulations to Linda!

To request a nomination form, please contact Julie Tanner at jtanner@dallaschamber.org or 214-746-6741.

The Grapevine:

Promotions, Job Changes & More

Congratulations to Mark Blinn '05, named CEO of Flowserve Corp.

Monica Egert Smith '08 and Mike Morath '09, were named two of the Five Outstanding Young Dallasites by the Dallas Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Elite Facility Services, owned by Tricia Holderman '05, received the Spirit of Texas Small Business Award.

House of Blues Foundation Room Alumni Happy Hour

We had more than 50 people in attendance for our Leadership Dallas Happy Hour at House of Blues on Thursday, November 5th. We had run of the exclusive Foundation Room and all were impressed. Those attending learned more about the alumni board and how to get involved in 2010's focus on Engage, Active, Educate.

Robert Witte with Strasburger & Price, LLP and House of Blues hosted the event.

News You Can Use

LD 2.0

October 30th marked the pilot program of Leadership 2.0, a one-day topic specific seminar designed to provide alumni the opportunity to 'relive a class day'. Nearly 70 graduates turned out to reconnect with class members and receive an update on the new arts district. With tours of the Wyly Theater and Winspear Opera House, Leadership Dallas Alumni were among the first to experience the world-class venues and hear first hand from experts. This new program,

chaired by Fran Eichorst '05 and led by Gail Sachson '89, was a huge success and there are plans to host future programs in 2010.

“Can the Arts Sell a City?’, the October 30th Launch of LEADERSHIP DALLAS 2.0, was a fabulous Family Reunion of graduates from '76 - '09. Our dynamic day opened with lively discussion among a panel of Arts Leaders, followed by a tour of the Center and culminating with standing applause for the “Me-sitersingers”, the Booker T. Washington high School for the Visual and Performing Arts choral group. We all left with smiles and some with misty eyes, as we were convinced the YES!, “The Arts Can, indeed, Sell a City! We were sold!”

Gail Sachson '89

ASK ME ABOUT ART

Vice-Chair, Cultural Affairs Commission

Public Art Committee

Legacy Dallas Quotes

Education is both a responsibility and an opportunity for our community in which the future depends on the actions we take now. It has been a pleasure to discuss key issues in education with the members of the inaugural Legacy Dallas class, who I hope will be inspired and informed as a result of their Legacy experience to be involved in this most important work.

-Jack Lowe

We were thrilled to spend four, two-hour sessions with the Hon. Jeanne Johnson Phillips discussing Dallas, local government, and how Leadership Dallas/ Legacy Dallas can have a greater impact on our community. What a gracious host -- one who not only happily spent the time, but also one who delved deep into our desire to get even more involved locally. With discussions ranging from how to be placed on municipal boards & commissions to what it takes to make a good queso in Paris, our class covered it all. Everyone enjoyed the program and we're all looking forward to further enhancing the Legacy Dallas program.

-Lee Pappert

Young Professionals:

Message from the Chair

As the year 2009 comes to a close, so does my time as the Chair of the Young Professionals Board. While I am very proud of the things we have accomplished this year, I am excited about the progress on tap for 2010 and beyond. I thought I would take a moment to reflect on the changes YP has undergone over the past five years.

When I joined YP (formerly known as YPN) in 2004, it was a handful of people that occasionally gathered about 15 times per year for happy hours of lunches. There was very little content, and no leadership development opportunities. Through the leadership and dedication of not only the board, but also Julie Tanner at the Chamber, YP has made tremendous strides over the past five years. Not only have we grown from 25 members to over 400, we have diversified membership in terms of both member demographics and industries represented. We now have strong support from the Dallas Regional Chamber Board, and represent almost every industry in Dallas. Our membership is especially strong in health care, financial services, telecom, law, real estate and energy. Our 17 corporate members represent one third of our total membership, demonstrating the support we receive from the Chamber's member companies.

This growth and diversification did not happen by chance. As a board, we decided several years ago that YP should become the premier leadership development organization for young professionals in the Dallas area. The programs committee started the transformation by adding thoughtful content to each of our “after-hours” events. The committee also expanded our breakfast series by

partnering with Leadership Dallas Alumni and adding meaningful presentations from local leaders. Many of our after-hours or breakfast events now include leadership development presentations. New initiatives were also started. We added a “Behind Closed Doors” series that gave YP members unprecedented access to areas of Dallas otherwise kept off limits to the general public. A CEO Luncheon series was created that allowed a select group of YP members to dine in an intimate setting with the leaders of Dallas's best companies. The CEO Luncheons and Behind Closed Doors events have become some of our biggest draws.

To keep YP from becoming overwhelming with over 400 members, we created a connecting committee which encourages members to get to know each other outside of networking events. In addition to adding New Member Orientations, an intramural sports program was created. I'm happy to say that our teams are very competitive, winning city championships in football, soccer, and basketball over the past year. A new initiative of the connecting committee is to put together an arts program that will bring members with an interest in fine arts together. The connecting committee is also responsible for recruiting and training our ambassadors. All 400+ members of YP are divided into groups of 15-20 and assigned an ambassador. The ambassador is a resource for its small group and responsible for making sure they all get to know each other. Another addition that brought us closer together with LDA is the mentoring program that pairs a YP member with a Leadership Dallas Alumni. This is a 12-month structured program that lets the LDA and YP members learn from each other. If you are interested in participating in this program next year, please contact Julie Tanner at the Chamber.

The philanthropy of YP is something I am most proud of. Through the leadership of our volunteer committee, which didn't exist in 2004, YP members have participated in over 13 volunteer events, contributing over 500+ hours of community service, and given back through monetary and in-kind donations. The participation and charitable contribution has increased each of the past five years.

The newest committee, Policy, has hit the ground running in 2009. They have hosted over ten events, including a breakfast series with elected officials modeled after the CDO luncheons, a lobbying trip to the State legislature in Austin, and an educational trip to City Hall during a city council meeting.

All told, YP has over 120 events for its members annually. It has certainly come a long way from when I first joined in 2004. All of these changes have only been possible through the hard work of our board, the Chamber staff and all of our committee members. I know the organization will continue to grow and expand in the future under the leadership of the 2010 chair, Amy Johnson. YP appreciates the support and opportunities that LDA provides for us and we look forward to continuing the partnership into the future.

Leadership Dallas Alumni

Partnership with Education Is Freedom

Leadership Dallas Alumni is launching a new community outreach and volunteer initiative! This effort will provide a menu of interactive volunteer opportunities identified to engage LDA membership in a meaningful way and utilize the collective talents, resources and experiences to make a positive and significant impact on critical issues facing our community.

Initially, Leadership Dallas Alumni will partner with Education is Freedom (EIF) www.educationisfreedom.org. Education is Freedom is a nonprofit organization founded on the belief that every young person deserves the opportunity for a college education. Education is Freedom is a privately funded organization that will impact inner city Dallas communities for generations to come.

Education is Freedom has committed to:

- Increasing the graduation rate in DISD
- Helping students access scholarship funds
- Showing students how to succeed in college and beyond

Leadership Dallas Alumni will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these talented young people by:

- Mentoring students in a structured, organized manner
- Working/providing support for character development workshops
- Creating opportunities for LD Alumni to integrate into the broader plan to make DISD a model for urban school districts

Contact Alan Wood at alan.wood@am.jll.com or Holly Hassman at holly.hassmann@childrens.com if you have an interest in fulfilling the Leadership Dallas mission of having a positive impact in the region by helping make DISD a model for the nation.