Written by Nicole Royse

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Last night Artlink celebrated the Second Annual Art d'core Gala at Crescent Ballroom featuring Mayor Stanton kicking off a new season for the arts and the upcoming Art Detour 27!

The evening brought together the many wonderful individuals and facets that help make downtown phoenix an amazing community showcasing the arts, entrepreneurs and local businesses.



This wonderful evening was hosted by the <u>City of Phoenix Mayor's Office</u>, <u>Downtown Phoenix, Inc.</u> and <u>Artlink Inc.</u> and was kicked off with a special performance by the cast of "Anything Goes" from the wonderful <u>Phoenix Theatre</u>. There was also a very special virtual tour of downtown Phoenix created by visual effects designer, Matt Castleberry displayed on the crescent ballroom stage and music provided by DJ Sean Watson.



Mayor Greg Stanton gave a rousing speech about the great success and continued progress that is being achieved in downtown Phoenix. He also highlighted the tremendous impact the arts, education, and bustling local businesses have made with their continued support for the community. Guests also heard from the dynamic Artlink President, Catrina Kahler as well as CEO of Downtown Phoenix Inc, David Krietor speaking about the upcoming Art Detour 27 and many great events planed for the year.



There were local artists painting live greeting gala guests as they entered and existed the Crescent Ballroom. Also three beautiful new art pieces were unveiled during the evening, inspired by the local neighborhoods McDowell, Roosevelt and 12th Street station areas along the Valley Metro Rail line. The three artworks were 9' banners created by Arizona artists including Lucretia Torva (McDowell), Jeff Jones (Roosevelt) and Robert Jackson (12th Street). They worked with the local community to create these pieces, which will hang at light rail stations following the event. This project and beautiful art was made possible through a Reinvent Phoenix grant and in participation with Valley Metro.

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The evening was generously sponsored by APS, Phoenix Convention Center, Valley Metro, Ernst & Young LLP, City of Phoenix Aviation Department and Support Sky Harbor, with additional support from The Arizona Republic, CityScape, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Crescent Ballroom and Phoenix Ale Brewery. Now its time to get ready for the 27th annual Art Detour, a fantastic two-day celebration of art in downtown happening on March 7-8, 2015.*Images courtesy of Artlink, Inc.



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