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Birdhouse Art and Cocktail Party Benefit Chicago House





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On the third floor of the [Room & Board](#) at 55 E. Ohio street in downtown Chicago, people were surrounded by world-class furniture and well-crafted birdhouse art sipping on cocktails.

Room & Board hosted the fourth annual Birdhouse Art Auction and Cocktail Party Pride Weekend Kickoff June 20 benefiting [Chicago House](#).

Contemporary art and birdhouses were auctioned at this year's event themed commUNITY. Architects and designers affiliated with both Room & Board and Chicago House designed artwork to benefit the organization.

"The artists are fabulous. They do so much work and they donate it to raise so much money for Chicago House," a woman who attended the event said.

Chicago House has provided community-based housing, services and prevention outreach since 1985 to individuals and families who are struggling with HIV and AIDS. Chicago House helps individuals who have suffered from poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness in consequence of the disease to live better lives with support and job skills training.



"Chicago House means well for the city of Chicago," Ross Renjilian of [Space Architects + Planners](#) said. Renjilian created a blue birdhouse with four red stars resembling the city of Chicago flag. "We tried to do something; flex our creative muscles for a good cause." He said.

He said they were hoping for a lot of bidders on his birdhouse as well as on the other art being auctioned because "more bidders equals more money you give to Chicago House." It was a silent auction and the bidding was through texting and iPads. Another person attending the event said Chicago House started using bidding through texting at their first event of the year called [Absolut Wrapture](#).

People were observing the art as well as the furniture and expansive space of Room & Board's downtown store. There was an outdoor balcony that people could sit or stand and observe the hustle and bustle of the intersection of Rush and Ohio streets.

"It's fun to see how (the store) transformed," Agnes Bzura of Mike Bell Inc. said. She said her company works with antiques and recreations of furniture and went to check out the auction.

The three-floor building is 52,000 square feet and can fit almost the whole catalogue in the store at one time, Derek the head of the custodians said.

Skeeter Siegel works for the Room & Board in Skokie and has been to the auction all four years. She makes a piece of art each year that with a Room & Board theme. She also brought her daughter and son who made pieces themselves.

Siegel helps with Chicago House by bringing kids who have housing through the organization to fun places. Once she brought them to the [Butterfly & Blooms Exhibit at the Chicago Botanical Garden](#).

Siegel said she loves working with the kids because "I brought them a reality and they bring me a reality."

All the proceeds from the event went directly to Chicago House and shows that the city can come together through creativity to help those in need.

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