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Sept. 18, 2013

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## **First Lady Michelle Obama Celebrates 2013 National Design Awards with White House Luncheon**

### ***12 Teens Receive Special Invitation to Attend White House Event***

First Lady Michelle Obama, honorary patron of the 2013 National Design Awards, will host a White House luncheon for the award winners Friday, Sept. 20. Joining Mrs. Obama and these design legends at the White House luncheon will be 12 high school students from New York and Washington, D.C., who have demonstrated great promise and interest in the design field.

In support of the First Lady's emphasis on education and outreach to Washington youth, the award winners will also participate in the Teen Design Fair, an education program for hundreds of local high school students, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Sept. 20 at the Smithsonian's International Gallery (1100 Jefferson Dr. S.W., Washington, D.C.).

"Mrs. Obama is a strong advocate of the power of design in forwarding American innovation, and we are greatly honored to once again have the First Lady's patronage and support," said Caroline Baumann, director of the museum. "One of the museum's most meaningful programs is the Teen Design Fair, which helps develop the designers of tomorrow through mentoring from the very best in the industry. It is inspiring to see these young people connect with designers and discover their own passion for design. They are our future."

During the Teen Design Fair, sponsored by Target, students will have the opportunity to meet with professionals working in the fields of fashion, product design, architecture, graphic design and more. In prior years, these one-minute mentoring sessions have led to internships for the teens. A keynote address will be delivered by Tim Gunn, co-host and mentor of Lifetime's *Project Runway*. Teens will also be able to earn a digital credential badge for documenting their experience and gathering career-building knowledge from the guest designers. Students can register online at [designprep.cooperhewitt.org/TDF](http://designprep.cooperhewitt.org/TDF).

National Design Week is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Target. National Design Awards are made possible in part by Procter and Gamble and SodaStream. Additional support is provided in part by Design Within Reach. National Design Award trophies are created by The Corning Museum of Glass. [ndagallery.cooperhewitt.org](http://ndagallery.cooperhewitt.org) is powered by Behance. Media sponsorship is provided by *Smithsonian* magazine.

National Design Awards and National Design Week professional supporters include AIGA | the professional association for design, American Institute of Architects New York Chapter, American Society of Interior Designers, American Society of Landscape Architects, Industrial Designers Society of America, Interaction Design Association and International Interior Design Association.

### **About Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum**

As the only museum in the nation devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design, Cooper-Hewitt educates, inspires and empowers people locally and globally through design. The museum is undergoing a transformative renovation resulting in 60 percent more gallery space and will reopen in fall 2014 with an entirely new visitor experience. During the renovation, Cooper-Hewitt's exhibitions, education programs and events are popping up nationally as well as locally at the Cooper-Hewitt Design Center in Harlem.

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