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**THOUGHT LEADERS IN HOSPITALITY DESIGN, MANAGEMENT, OWNERSHIP AND MANUFACTURING TO SHARE INSIGHTS AT BDWEST WOMEN LEADERS IN HOSPITALITY EVENT, PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWH**

*Annual breakfast and panel discussion to include presentation of NEWH Women Leaders Scholarship sponsored by Hospitality Management Group (HMG) and the NEWH Colleen Smith Studio Series Scholarship sponsored by Séura, April 6 at the Los Angeles Convention Center*

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CINCINNATI, OH, March 30, 2017 – Six visionary leaders representing all sectors of the hospitality industry will take part in BDwest's annual "Boutique Design Power Players: Women Leaders in Hospitality Breakfast & Panel Discussion," to be held Thursday, April 6, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Presented in partnership with NEWH, The Hospitality Industry Network, the signature event kicks off day two of the [BDwest](#) trade fair and conference. Now in its fifth year, this fast-growing trade fair serves hospitality design professionals in the western U.S. and Canada, Hawaii, Mexico and South America.

The Women Leaders panel brings together thought leaders from the entire spectrum of the hospitality industry, giving BDwest attendees a broader view of today's hotel development market as well as more informed strategies for success.

Mary Scoviak, executive editor, *Boutique Design*, and conference director, Hospitality Media Group (HMG), will moderate the Women Leaders discussion. Panelists for 2017 include:

- **Sophia Chan**, interior design director at Miami, Florida-based real estate brand **Crescent Heights**, specializing in managing large-scale hospitality and multifamily projects
- **Mary Beth Cutshall**, senior vice president & chief business development officer at Atlanta, Georgia-based **HVMG** (Hospitality Ventures Management Group), a hotel management company with properties throughout the U.S.
- **Amy Jakubowski**, managing director & design director at Dallas, Texas-based **Wilson Associates**, a leading hospitality design practice with eight offices across six continents
- **Kay Lang**, president + chief executive officer at Los Angeles, Calif.-based design firm **Kay Lang + Associates**, specializing in four and five-star hospitality and high-end residential design
- **Vicki McWilliams**, executive vice president, retail and business sales at San Francisco, Calif.-based **Williams Sonoma, Inc.**, the multi-channel specialty retailer whose brands include Mark and Graham, PBteen, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, Rejuvenation, West Elm, Williams-Sonoma and Williams-Sonoma Home

• **Jeanne Starling**, director of design development at Las Vegas, Nevada-based **MGM Resorts International Design**, the in-house design studio for the iconic developer and operator of resort-casinos, hotels, residential living and retail developments

“This panel offers a unique opportunity to get a GPS for the coming year in the hospitality business from the thought leaders who will be the agents of change,” said Scoviak.

Also at the breakfast, NEWH will award its \$5,000 NEWH Women Leaders Scholarship, sponsored by Hospitality Media Group (HMG), and its new \$3,000 NEWH Colleen Smith Studio Series Scholarship, sponsored by TV and mirror manufacturer Séura.

To qualify for the NEWH Women Leaders Scholarship, applicants must be a female undergraduate or graduate student with financial need, currently enrolled in an accredited college, with a minimum 3.0 GPA and half their credits completed while pursuing a career objective in hospitality management. The winner is selected by Andrea Thomas, NEWH VP Scholarship and Rebecca Kundysek, NEWH Scholarship Director. This year’s recipient is Scarlett Schmitt, a hospitality management major at Kendall College.

In 2016, Séura launched the Séura Studio Series Design Competition, a lighted mirror design competition, debuting at BDNY in 2016. The competition showcased the best lighted mirror designs and the talented designers behind them. Colleen Smith received the most votes at BDNY with her “Deconstructed Deco” entry, winning the competition. To honor Smith’s winning project, Séura in turn donated a \$3,000 NEWH scholarship in her name, beginning in 2017.

To qualify for the NEWH Colleen Smith Studio Series Scholarship, sponsored by *Séura*, applicants must be an undergraduate or graduate student with financial need, currently enrolled in an accredited college, with a minimum 3.0 GPA and half their credits completed while pursuing a career objective in hospitality interior design. The winner was selected by Andrea Thomas, NEWH VP Scholarship, and Rebecca Kundysek, NEWH Scholarship Director. This year’s recipient is Louis Jeong Soo Kim, an environmental design major at the Art Center College of Design.

The Women Leaders event is one of 30+ panel discussions, design firm Q&As and CEU sessions on the two-day BDwest conference agenda. Other signature sessions include the “ISHP/Boutique Design Owners’ Grill” with leading hoteliers and investors; “Up-and-Coming Hoteliers” with innovators in the lifestyle sector; and “Brand Central” with masterminds behind some of today’s hottest hotel brands.

More than 2,500 hospitality design professionals are expected to attend BDwest, which will feature 300+ manufacturers and marketers of furniture, lighting, floorcoverings, fabrics, wallcoverings, accessories and other design elements for hospitality interiors.

Tickets for the “Boutique Design Power Players: Women Leaders in Hospitality Breakfast and Panel Discussion” are \$100 per person. Advance registration is required; availability is limited.

Attendee registration, event tickets and trade fair details are available at [boutiquedesignwest.com](http://boutiquedesignwest.com).

## **ABOUT HMG**

HMG is a privately held company serving the global hospitality and related industries and specializing in trade fairs, conferences and event management and development. Events in the HMG portfolio include: BDNY; BDwest; management of HX: The Hotel Experience (formerly IHMRS);

Boutique Design Forums; Boutique 18; Senior Lifestyle Design Match; and sponsorship of the Gold Key Awards for Excellence in Hospitality Design.

BDwest is produced by HMG in association with the Boutique & Lifestyle Lodging Association (BLLA); the International Society of Hospitality Purchasers (ISHP); the Hospitality Industry Network (NEWH); and the International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC).

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