

THE CEDARS UNION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minerva's Feast at The Cedars Union Raises Over \$90,000 in Support of Emerging Artists

Dallas, TX — [March 13, 2026] — On the evening of February 27, The Cedars Union's studio hall glowed with candlelight, conversation, and the energy of a community gathered in support of artists. Minerva's Feast, the organization's signature annual fundraising dinner, welcomed patrons, artists, and supporters for an immersive night where art and cuisine met at the table—raising over \$90,000 to support emerging artists in North Texas.

Guests arrived dressed for the occasion in creative ensembles that reflected the spirit of the space. During the opening reception, attendees met members of **Cohort V**, The CU's arts incubator program, exploring works-in-progress and hearing directly from the artists about their ideas, processes, and evolving practices. As the evening transitioned to dinner, the studio hall was transformed into a communal dining space where long tables encouraged conversation between artists and guests.

The centerpiece of the evening was a curated multi-course feast created by leading Dallas chefs, each dish thoughtfully presented and inspired by the artistry surrounding it. Guests dined on shrimp crudo by Stock and Barrel's Jon Stevens, truffle agnolotti by Belal Kattan of Bazaar Dallas, bisque by Garden Café's Justin Wern, and Katsu by Uchi's Rhonda McCullar while enjoying wine pairings by Jimmy Contreras of Taco y Vino.

Between courses, speakers reflected on the importance of spaces like The Cedars Union—places where artists can find community and build essential skills that push their creative practices forward. The night's generosity was evident as supporters contributed over \$14,000 during the dinner to support speaker fees and artist honoraria for the next year of programming.

By the end of the night, the gathering had raised over \$90,000, surpassing the organization's fundraising goals and reinforcing the community's commitment to sustaining creative work in Dallas.

"At Minerva's Feast, we celebrate not just finished artwork, but the process, experimentation, and dedication that make artistic careers possible," said Jessie Carrillo, Manager of Development and Marketing at The Cedars Union. "Seeing the room filled with artists, patrons, and friends sharing a meal and investing in this work was incredibly powerful."

Proceeds from Minerva's Feast support The Cedars Union's year-round programs, which provide emerging artists with affordable studio space, shared equipment, and professional development opportunities designed to help them build sustainable creative practices.

Minerva's Feast was chaired by Lynn McBee and Paige McDaniel, presented by Laura and Walter Elcock, and sponsored by Gayle Halperin.

About The Cedars Union

The Cedars Union (CU) is a nonprofit arts incubator in Dallas dedicated to supporting emerging artists. Located in the historic Cedars neighborhood, The CU provides resources that foster collaboration, experimentation, and growth within the visual arts community. Through exhibitions, workshops, and public programs, The Cedars Union connects artists and audiences, strengthening the cultural fabric of North Texas.

Learn more at www.cedarsunion.org.