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# Don Chiofaro and Ted Oatis Co-Chair Boston History & Innovation Collaborative's 7th Annual Awards Dinner

### **Don Chiofaro Hosts Nov. 14 Awards Dinner, Offers Insights on Boston's Past & Future**

**Boston, Mass., November 14, 2006**—Over 300 of Boston's most innovative educators, scientists, academics, philanthropists, thinkers and businesspersons gathered for a gala evening at the Four Seasons to celebrate the Greater Boston region as an engine of innovation for success. Don Chiofaro, partner of The Chiofaro Company, a major Boston real estate development company, co-chaired the 7th annual awards event of the Boston History & Innovation Collaborative. Other co-chairs were Chiofaro's business partner, Ted Oatis; Jackie Kay, founder and CEO of WPI; and Steve Crosby, Dean of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies at UMass-Boston.

Chiofaro served as the host for the evening's events, which included dinner, short plays about the award-winners and their organizations, and the awards themselves. His remarks during the event punctuated the evening's celebration and offered insights into Boston's historical, cultural and business context. Below are excerpts from Chiofaro's remarks:

*"Connection and collaboration lead to innovation. Over the last four centuries, this [Boston] region has been an amazing engine of innovation; not just in one field, but in many. Engineers and scientists connect in their labs and create life-changing inventions; peers and researchers collaborate to overcome disease; business innovators listen to and really hear what their customers desperately need; and companies at the birth of an industry find ways to build that industry while still engaged in strong competition ...*

*"As real estate developers, we [The Chiofaro Company] depend upon the economic vitality of the region. And, as the Boston History & Innovation Collaborative has shown, Boston's economic vitality depends on continual innovation: we all know our regional strengths – education, healthcare, finance and science are the ones that come to everyone's mind. But our greatest strengths are adaptability and foresight. No matter what field you are in, your business succeeds only because you have been able to adapt over the last two decades. Take a moment right now and think of what your business actually was and what your workday was really like in 1986, what it's like today, and what it might be like in 2026 ...*

*"Innovation has been going on in Boston for nearly 400 years. Once you understand the core of an innovation, no matter when it happened, you can use that understanding to fuel your own achievement. Boston has been great at this ...*

*“With us in the room tonight are the innovators and risk takers whose genius led to big accomplishments. In some cases, they are gone, but are represented by colleagues and family. In particular, we are recognizing the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Dr. Sidney Farber; Boston Scientific; “unsung innovator” Lewis Latimer; and the entire group of visionary entrepreneurs that created and nurtured the biotech industry in Massachusetts ...*

*“The Boston History & Innovation Collaborative is applying the lessons from our history to help us succeed in the present and the future. Last March, the Collaborative reported that one of the reasons Boston has been so successful at innovation through the centuries is because we have continually intermixed the social and the scientific ...”*

*As we enter the Third Industrial Revolution, we encounter a wave of new innovations, all within our own lifetimes. They include widely distributed personal computing, green technology, nanotechnology, and, of course biotechnology ...*

*“Here in Massachusetts, biotech is an industry that overlaps large and small biotech firms, colleges and universities, hospitals and research institutes, and all the collaborative industries from law to real estate. We see hundreds of companies and tens of thousands of employees. But you don’t need to go back very far to get to a time when there was no biotech. There were some ideas, and there were some inspired people ...*

*“How did the biotechnology industry get born, get nourished, and thrive? It is important to know this, because over the next quarter century Massachusetts is going to have to innovate again: we’ll have to keep nourishing what we have, and make sure that the next great idea is properly cultivated, fed and watered.”*

International Place is a joint venture between The Chiofaro Company and Prudential Real Estate Investors. The Chiofaro Company is a privately held, independent firm engaged in the development, investment, leasing, management and ownership of real estate properties of the highest quality. The company is one of New England’s leading developers and operators of first class commercial and research projects. The Chiofaro Company’s successful track record and world-class client list are a direct result of its uncompromising focus on creating and maintaining workplaces of extraordinary value—workplaces that enhance the competitiveness of its clients. To learn more, visit [www.chiofaro.com](http://www.chiofaro.com).

The Boston History & Innovation Collaborative aids the prosperity of the Boston region by helping to sustain Greater Boston’s four-century history and culture of innovation. The Boston Fifth Century Trustees include a wide selection of cultural, academic, business and civic leaders. The Collaborative’s Advisory Council draws on the knowledge of prominent leaders from across the region. These relationships allow the Collaborative to leverage volunteer efforts to extend the efforts of its staff.

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