



Ariana Lambert Smeraldo, Jennifer Hawks and Karyn Lovegrove



Jeffrey and Catharine Soros, Viveca Paulin and Brooke Kanter



Rebecca Bloom and Ruth Bloom



Lauri Firstenberg and Esther Kim Varet



Lilly Merage and Lauren Merage



China Chow and Alex Israel



Edgar Arceneaux, Joy Simmons and Rodney McMillian



Perrey Reeves

ON THE SCENE

Dancing With the Art Stars

The inaugural Ungala benefiting LAXART

THE PARTY

LAXART hosted its first annual benefit at Chinatown's Empress Pavilion to celebrate the nonprofit's collaborating artists and supporters.

THE PLAYERS

Jennifer Hawks, Karyn Lovegrove, Ariana Lambert Smeraldo, China Chow, Jeffrey and Catharine Soros, Lindsay Berger Sacks, Ruth Bloom

THE HIGHLIGHTS

The idea for the event was "to veer away from the highly produced, expensive, spectacular culture of galas that are part and parcel of museum culture and to produce an event that is artist-centric, accessible, pleasurable and reflective of the organization's values," said LAXART Director Lauri Firstenberg. To that effect, a large swath of the local art world's luminaries descended upon Chinatown to mark the occasion, stepping into the venue that had been transformed by Smeraldo's Lily Lodge florals into a magical cherry blossom den, dotted with year of the snake sculptures and silk fans. Partygoers tucked into a feast of dim sum then immediately turned their attention to the dance floor, where artists including Mary Kelly and Shana Lutker were spotted enjoying a live set by local band The Golden Peacocks. —LM