

STUDIO MOVIE GRILL

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Studio Movie Grill Presents Big Thought's Lisa Schmidt with its 2018 Opening Hearts & Minds Award



Big Thought President and CEO Byron Sanders, SMG Founder and CEO Brian Schultz, honoree Lisa Schmidt, SMG CFO Ted Croft, WFAA's Alisha Laventure Honoree (Photo by Lindsay Jones)

Dallas, TX (June 18, 2018) – Studio Movie Grill (“SMG”) presented Big Thought’s Lisa Schmidt with their 2018 Opening Hearts & Minds Award (“OHAMA”) on Thursday, June 14 at SMG NorthWest Highway prior to a special screening of THE INCREDIBLES 2.

The 3rd presentation of the OHAMA Award was co-hosted by WFAA anchor Alisha Laventure, and included a brief panel discussion moderated by Big Thought President and CEO Byron Sanders with students from Schmidt’s Creative Solutions projects, Bone Garcia, Lela Bell, and Isrrael Tadeo, award presentations by SMG Founder and CEO Brian Schultz, and SMG CFO Ted Croft. The gala evening included orange carpet (following Big Thought and THE INCREDIBLES color scheme theme) entrances, INCREDIBLES costumed characters, taped presentations by Schmidt’s friends and colleagues, as well as a congratulatory message from former Under Secretary of Education, Martha Kanter to President Obama. The event packed two theaters with attendees gathered to celebrate Schmidt’s 30 years as an impactful educator and her tireless work with Big Thought to further social-emotional learning with children and adults.



**(L to R) Byron Sanders, Bone Garcia, Lela Bell, Isrrael Tadeo
(Photo by Lindsay Jones)**

SMG's Schultz said, "Our 3rd edition of the Opening Hearts & Minds Award was as special as the incredible person we're celebrating this year. We are all inspired by Lisa Schmidt and her work with Big Thought and saw first-hand the impact Lisa and her programs make when we hosted over 13,000 students for special screenings of WONDER at our theaters. She truly is a local hero, it was wonderful to give her an evening befitting the difference she has made in so many young lives and we very much look forward to continuing to work together."



**Studio Movie Grill Founder and CEO, Brian Schultz
(Photo by Lindsay Jones)**

Educator Lisa Schmidt is the founder of Creative Solutions, a Big Thought partnership with the Dallas County Juvenile Department and Southern Methodist University, that provides job and life skills training for teens and disadvantaged adults. Studio Movie Grill has worked with Schmidt and Big Thought, hosting and sponsoring multiple impactful screenings to support those programs (with films like WONDER WOMAN, WONDER, and A WRINKLE IN TIME. This is one of many programs that SMG undertakes to support the communities in which it finds itself – and one which the theater chain has ambitions to introduce to all its communities to benefit its constituents across the country.



Big Thought's Lisa Schmidt (Photo by Lindsay Jones)

SMG attracts more than 11 million patrons annually and hosts thousands of corporate and special events. A leader among businesses in the arena of conscious business initiatives, and with a company-wide mission to open hearts and minds, one story at a time, SMG works tirelessly with the communities surrounding their theaters to better the lives of their guests. This includes a number of varied charitable initiatives, its 15-year-old legacy special needs screening program, Chefs for Children, funding charitable projects, community building and outreach initiatives, and supporting additional fundraising events and film festivals.

More information can be found at <https://www.studiomoviegrill.com/>

About Studio Movie Grill

Established in 2000, Studio Movie Grill ("SMG") modernized the traditional movie-going experience by combining first-run movies with full-service, in-theater dining. SMG has swiftly grown to 30 locations in 9 states with further expansion planned. SMG was named to Inc. Magazine's List of "Fastest Growing Private Companies" two years in a row, placed 12th in Box Office Magazine's Giants of the Industry in 2018 with key films grossing as high as #5 in North America. Honoring its commitment to Opening Hearts and Minds, One Story at a Time™, SMG's legacy programs include Special Needs Screenings, Chefs for Children program and annual Award, which strive to help families and acknowledge local heroes. For additional information, visit studiomoviegrill.com.

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