

# HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

## Photo gallery: See who attended HBJ's inaugural Women Who Mean Business event

May 16, 2016, 4:00pm CDT



DANIEL ORTIZ

HBJ welcomed more than 400 guests to the Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel on May 11 for a night of networking and to honor more than 60 women in business.

ABC-13 news anchor [Iona Carson](#) was the host for HBJ's inaugural Women Who Mean Business Awards. Click through the slideshow to see who came out to the event, and [click here to see all the photos available for purchase.](#)

The event honored 15 for-profit and 10 nonprofit finalists, 15 women to watch honorees and the leaders of the 25 [Largest Houston-Area Women-Owned Businesses.](#)

The criteria for selection included career achievement, contribution to company and city success, community involvement and leadership. A panel of judges and HBJ editors selected the finalists and winners.

[Click here to meet the two Business Women of the Year.](#) Subscribers can [click here to read more about all of the finalists and winners.](#) Not a subscriber? [Click here.](#)

[Go behind the scenes of the HBJ Women Who Mean Business photo shoot here.](#)

Last year, HBJ launched its [inaugural Women in Energy Leadership Awards.](#) [Nominations are open for the awards second year,](#) and the deadline to nominate someone is June 30.

**Natalie Harms**  
Print associate editor  
*Houston Business Journal*

Women Who Mean Business 2016

# Women Who Mean Business 2016: Edna Meyer-Nelson

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT: May 13, 2016, 5:00am CDT



DANIEL ORTIZ/HBJ

From left, Jacklyn Viera Iloff, Cynthia Colbert, Edna Meyer Nelson, Nancy Levicki of Dress for Success Houston, Ruby Powers, and Patricia Mercer of the SPCA with Teddy and Tommy

## **For-profit finalist: Edna Meyer-Nelson, CEO, The Richland Cos.**

Edna Meyer-Nelson, CEO of The Richland Companies, says she's not too important to get her hands dirty.

Meyer-Nelson pays attention to detail and spends time at properties in different cities; she inspects each property, searches for new opportunities and meets with clients, vendors and employees.

In 1993, Meyer-Nelson left the banking industry and partnered with Suzanne Klein to start The Richland Companies. Now the company is one of the largest woman-owned businesses in Houston.

“She’s [Meyer-Nelson] a firm believer that women can be just as successful as men if they are well-informed, determined and don’t back down,” said [Brittany Zucker](#), owner of Martini Marketing + Communication.

Meyer-Nelson shares her many years of experiences with her employees and other young professionals she meets in and outside of her work. She is known to have an open-door policy if anyone needs advice.

She continues to mentor those she meets at speaking engagements, events and classes at Rice University and the University of Houston.

“She feels it is extremely important to take advantage of teachable moments and passes her knowledge on willingly,” Zucker said.

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Education: Southern Methodist University, bachelor’s; University of Houston and the University of Colorado, master’s

Affiliations: National Association of Professional Women, American Business Women’s Association, CREW, executive advisory board of the graduate real estate program at the CT Bauer College of Business.

Years in the industry: 23

<http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/print-edition/2016/05/13/women-who-mean-business-2016-edna-meyer-nelson.html>