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## Real Estate Finance Association hosts 35th Annual Gala at Boston Omni at the Seaport honoring Steven Samuels of Samuels & Associates

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Boston, MA On Thursday, October 5th, over 500 REFA members and friends gathered to honor Steven Samuels, chairman & principal of Samuels & Associates, as he was awarded the Swain Distinguished Service Award at the 34th Annual REFA Gala. Samuels joins an accomplished group of honorees who have all made a great impact to the Greater Boston community through their work and philanthropic efforts. It was an evening to remember, as attendees celebrated, networked and connected with industry members, and honored Steven as he accepted his award.

The 2023 Boston CRE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summit was held on September 28th, Nutter, 155 Seaport Blvd. The 2023 Boston CRE Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit, presented by the CRE DEI Collaborative, provided industry members the opportunity to join local experts to hear their insights and strategies on how to meaningfully advance DE&I within commercial real estate.

On September 27th, REFA's Innovation Committee hosted Emerging Trends in Technology, Real Estate and Investing at Unispace, 1 Post Office Sq., 37th floor, Boston. The engaging discussion featured industry experts, James Scott and Steve Weikal, from the MIT Center for Real Estate. They delved into a wide range of topics about the cutting-edge advancements and evolving technology trends in commercial real estate.

Keep an eye out for upcoming REFA events and receptions! This fall, please join us for:

The Future of Housing - Metro Boston and Beyond: Thursday, October 19th, Goodwin Law Firm, 100 Northern Ave., 17th Floor. REFA has partnered with AREPA for a lively panel discussion about the challenges and opportunities for housing development in metro Boston, informed by local and national housing experts. This panel will incorporate perspectives from a panel deeply experienced in housing policy, development, brokerage, planning and capital allocation.

Learn more about REFA, including membership, events, and ways to get involved, please visit us at

[www.refa.org](http://www.refa.org). Follow REFA's LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram @REFABoston.

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