More than 300 supporters attended Veneralia: A Night of Indian Delights, a fundraiser for Emory University’s Michael C. Carlos Museum, in the museum galleries on Saturday, February 27.

Event Chairs Merry Carlos, Annette Joseph and Robert Long, along with Museum Director Bonnie Speed welcomed the gathering. Honorary Chairs Jean and Bill Astrop, longtime supporters of the museum, were recognized for over two decades of dedication to the Carlos Museum.

The Emory Indian Classical Music Ensemble entertained guests, and Reneeta Basu performed traditional Indian dance. Director Bonnie Speed spoke to the guests about the opening of When Gold Blossoms, an exhibition introducing the splendor of Indian art and culture to Atlanta from March 20 through July 11, with more than 150 pieces of jewelry spanning 2,000 years of Indian history. Proceeds from Veneralia support the museum’s education and outreach initiatives. For 19 years this event has served as a signature celebration of Carlos Museum’s special exhibitions and a vital gathering of art and culture patrons and enthusiasts.

Special mementos of the event were the individual photographs of each guest or couple in front of a Taj Mahal backdrop. These photographs were presented as favors along with Gold sponsor Cartier’s embossed note pads and gifts of Saffron soap. The ambiance combining Indian pop culture with traditional accents blended the playfulness of modern-day Bollywood in the Mumbai Market hall, the majestic splendor of Indian royalty in the Taj Mahal and Maharaja galleries, and the sacred in the Goddess and Kamasutra galleries. Bhojanic created a feast representing the diverse cuisine of India from Hyderabad to New Delhi.

Platinum sponsors and lead supporters of the event were Jack Sawyer, Southeast Region President of Wilmington Trust, and Robert Long.

The Carlos Museum houses major collections of Greek and Roman, Ancient Egyptian, Near Eastern, Nubian, Ancient American, African, and Asian art, as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present. For more details, visit www.carlos.emory.edu.