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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2019 OBELISK AWARD HONOREES

More Cities Than Ever Honored in North Texas

DALLAS—In the 31st anniversary year of the founding of Business Council for the Arts, 11 regional businesses, arts educators, philanthropists, and volunteers will be honored November 15 with 2019 Obelisk Awards.

Originated in 1988 by the late **Raymond Nasher**, international arts patron, philanthropist and namesake of the award-winning Nasher Sculpture Center, the Obelisk Awards recognize leaders of the nation's fifth largest arts economy that contributes more than \$1.5 billion annually to the North Texas region. The numbers, reported by **Katherine Wagner**, CEO of Business Council for the Arts, result from a recent study by the BCA and Americans for the Arts.

In announcing this year's honorees, Obelisk Awards co-chairs **Jessica Beasley** and **Mimi Crume Sterling** saluted the burgeoning North Texas arts community and its patrons for their passionate support of arts and culture, growing community interests, diverse programming, and global outreach. Honorees this year represent a larger number of cities than ever before within North Texas, including **Dallas, Fort Worth, Frisco, Irving, McKinney, Plano, and Richardson.**

Honorees in 11 Arts Leadership Categories

Mary Anne Alhadeff—KERA (North Texas Public Broadcasting) President and CEO will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her 40-year career in public broadcasting. Mrs. Alhadeff is retiring from KERA at the end of this year. She was nominated by Donna Wilhelm.

American Airlines—Nominated by The Dallas Opera for its monetary and airline miles support to ensure that North Texas has access to the world's very best artists, American Airlines receives the Arts Partnership Award in the large business category.

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The Andrea-Mennen Family Foundation—Honored in the Arts Education category, this private Collin County-based foundation was nominated by Chamberlain Performing Arts and the Plano Symphony Orchestra. Not only has the Foundation, over the past 20 years, raised millions of dollars in support of Collin County artistic youth endeavors but also has mentored other philanthropists in establishing family foundations.

ArtCentre of Plano—Nominated by Atmos Energy Corporation in the Distinguished Cultural Organization category, ArtCentre of Plano partnered with Atmos to bring more than 5,000 Collin County middle and high school students to experience the renowned Kinsey Collection of African American Art. Additionally, ArtCentre of Plano and Atmos joined Plano ISD's Art Department in developing an accompanying curriculum for the exhibition.

Dallas Glass Art—This colorful art glass studio is the honoree in the New Initiatives category and nominated by arts patron Pamela Riddle for its educational outreach project called Art Reaching Out (ARO). Directed toward female and at-risk student groups, ARO applies a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) production approach to learning exercises that result in public and large-scale art installations. Students are exposed to the art glass trades in a large, creative and collaborative process aimed toward future artistic careers.

Ann and Charles Eisemann—The City of Richardson nominated these major arts donors for the Business Champion for the Arts Award, honoring them for their founding role in Richardson's Charles W. Eisemann Center. Not only have more than three million people enjoyed performances at the Eisemann Center, but countless others have benefited from gifts from the Eisemann Family Foundation, the Eisemann International Young Artists Competition of the Richardson Symphony, the Eisemann Arts Innovation Initiative, and the Eisemann Edge Endowment Fund to explore the intersection between art and technology.

Emerson—A founding sponsor of the McKinney Performing Arts Center (MPAC), Emerson Process Management was nominated by MPAC for its ongoing support in the build-out, launch and technical assistance for the Emerson Ticket Office. Emerson has helped MPAC welcome more than 60,000 visitors annually to its performing and visual arts programs. All of this support led to the Texas Commission on the Arts awarding Historic Downtown McKinney with the prestigious Cultural District designation in 2018. Emerson is honored with the Arts Partnership Award in the medium business category.

James Mason—Nominated by Dragonfly Studio Creations and the honoree receiving the Outstanding Leadership Arts Alumnus Award, this North Texas arts advocate and

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ambassador is a board member and development chair of the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas. He also serves on the board of North Texas Performing Arts as well as the steering committee of the Business Council for the Arts Leadership Arts Institute.

Tammy Meinershagen—Mrs. Meinershagen is synonymous with development of the arts in Frisco's continuing growth. Not only is she the Executive Director of the Frisco Association for the Arts and the initiator of the Frisco Arts Walk at Hall Park, she also is instrumental in the collaboration to bring a Frisco performing arts center to reality. Nominated by the HALL Group, she is honored with the Visionary Nonprofit Arts Leader Award.

Oversee My IT, LLC—Nominated by the Dallas Black Dance Theatre for its daily technical support and business advice, Oversee My IT, LLC is honored with the Arts Partnership Award for small business. With fewer than 50 employees, this Irving company's staff collectively volunteers more than 500 hours annually for the installation and support of 25 workstations, a server and professional printer, as well as replacement of an outdated billing system for the theatre's parking lot. In all, this technology and professional support have returned more than \$70,000 to the Theatre's bottom line.

PNC Bank—The AT&T Performing Arts Center nominated PNC Bank for the New Initiatives Award given to an organization in the large business category. Launched in Dallas only two years ago, PNC Bank has focused its generosity not only on financial support for creation of the new Dallas Cultural Plan by the Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, but also for the growing Dallas Arts District—including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Museum of Art, Nasher Sculpture Center, Klyde Warren Park, AT&T Performing Arts Center, and the Dallas Theater Center.

Presenting Sponsors of the annual event are **Nancy A. Nasher** and **David J. Haemisegger, NorthPark Center**, and **Capital One**. **HALL Group** sponsored custom creation of each Obelisk Award by Dallas glass artist **Polly Gessell**.

The Obelisk Awards will be presented Friday, November 15, at a noon luncheon in the International Ballroom of the Dallas Fairmont, emceed by "Good Morning Texas" host **Jane McGarry**. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Tickets are available by calling Business Council for the Arts at 972.991.8300, Ext. 602, or visiting the website at <https://ntbca.org/obelisk-sponsorship>.

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Mary Anne Alhadeff



Ann and Charles Eisemann



James Mason



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