



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS TO HONOR PATTY GRANVILLE WITH JUROR'S AWARD AT THE 2021 OBELISK AWARDS

DALLAS— Patty Granville, recently retired City of Garland Cultural Arts Director, will be honored with the Juror's Award at the 33rd annual Obelisk Awards. Ms. Granville was nominated by Michelle Norris and Sheri Morriss of the City of Garland, citing in their nominations that Ms. Granville is “the embodiment of cultural arts in Garland.”

Patty Granville opened the Granville Arts Center (opened as the Garland Performing Arts Center and later renamed for Granville) in 1982 after a career as an actor including her role as “Miss Patty” on the nationally syndicated TV show Romper Room. She was the producer of the Dallas Press Club's Gridiron Shows for more than 20 years and has many acting, producer and director credits to her name. In 1983 Ms. Granville was a founder of Garland Summer Musicals (GSM) and served as their Producer since its inception and has also been featured in many GSM productions as an actor.

As a strong advocate for Garland Civic Theatre and Garland Summer Musicals, Ms. Granville will continue to perform and direct in their productions after her retirement from her role as the Garland Cultural Arts Director last month. Ms. Granville's legacy is cemented within Garland not only for her accomplishments in bringing the arts to the city but also for her work in completing Garland's Cultural Arts Master Plan last year that will direct Garland's creative and cultural future.

As stated by Ms. Granville's nominator Michelle Norris, City of Garland Cultural Arts Supervisor, “Words cannot express what an icon for the arts Patty Granville truly is; but her years of avid dedication and continually supporting the arts, along with her service building an artistic community in not only the City of Garland, but also regionally, can serve as her testament.”

Mr. David Fisher, City of Garland Director of Cultural Arts shares, “In 1982, Patty Granville fearlessly opened the first multipurpose arts center in the North Texas region and tirelessly grew it into a vibrant community arts anchor. Renamed for her in 2003, the Granville Arts Center has been the model for many local arts centers that followed. After nearly 40 years as Garland's Cultural Arts Director, she leaves a wonderful legacy, including public art, several accomplished Garland-based arts organizations, and a newly adopted Cultural Master Plan.”



And Ms. Granville herself shares, “The arts in Garland flourished with the opening of the City’s Arts Center in 1982. New and existing arts organizations thrived...Audiences flocked to see productions....and quality artists were attracted to perform in a new state of the art facility. The arts have kept downtown Garland alive and will continue to be the catalyst in developing and enriching the lives of future generations!”

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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS INTRODUCES 2021 OBELISK AWARDS HONOREE ANDY SMITH, BUSINESS CHAMPION FOR THE ARTS, NOMINATED BY DALLAS THEATER CENTER

DALLAS— On Wednesday, November 17, Andy Smith will be honored at the 33rd annual Obelisk Awards hosted by Business Council for the Arts as the Business Champion for the Arts, an award recognizing a single business leader for their long-term commitment to arts and culture. North Texas is fortunate to have Mr. Smith because of his dedication to promoting the betterment of our city and state.

Personally, and professionally, Andy Smith is one of our region's strongest advocates for arts and culture. Mr. Smith is the Director of Giving and Volunteering for Texas Instruments (TI) and is the Executive Director of the TI Foundation. His work there aims to build strong communities within TI's major site communities, primarily Dallas their headquarters, by investing in education, human services, racial equity and arts. Mr. Smith's impact is greatly furthered by dedicating his own time and talent to local arts and culture organizations, which are a key component to thriving communities. A short list of his very active local service includes the Dallas Education Foundation, Dallas Theater Center (DTC), Dallas Thrives, Commit Advisory Council, Dallas Assembly and SMU Dedman College Executive Board. Additionally, he and his husband, Paul von Wupperfeld, chaired the 2021 Dallas Symphony Gala.

Andy Smith especially advocates for the importance of art and theater, and DTC proudly nominated him for this award. They said, "By championing the work of the theater, as well as other local arts organizations, Andy has ensured that, through TI's generosity, the companies continue to thrive and create innovative work that both reflects the community and brings it together."

Thanks to Andy Smith, DTC survived the pandemic, supported in large part because of his incredible fundraising efforts the year before as chair of DTC's Centerstage (along with his husband, Paul von Wupperfeld). Mr. Smith's total commitment and collaboration made the 2019 annual gala the company's most successful ever. He will continue to make a long-term impact on the organization as he fulfills his third three-year board term.

Andy Smith's impact reaches other organizations too. Through the TI Foundation, he brings together arts leaders from around the community, hosting regular luncheons (pre-pandemic) for the organizations' leaders, along with the Communities Foundation



of Texas and PNC Bank. Jeff Woodward, Managing Director of Dallas Theater Center, shares that these gatherings have created an unprecedented level of collaboration, and Mr. Smith inspires new business support for the arts. Andy Smith believes that “the arts are a key building block of a strong community. Having a thriving arts scene helps connect us and is among our greatest assets to keeping North Texas a vibrant place to live and work.”

The 2021 Obelisk Awards Co-Chair Philip Silvestri says, “Now more than ever, collaboration is a catalyst for creativity in both business and arts. It an honor to recognize Andy as the Business Champion for the Arts, rightly deserved!”

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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS INTRODUCES 2021 OBELISK AWARDS HONOREE GENSLER DALLAS, NEW INITIATIVES – SMALL, NOMINATED BY CREATIVE ARTS CENTER OF DALLAS

DALLAS— Meet Gensler Dallas, one of 49 global offices working in architecture, design, and planning. Business Council of the Arts will honor Gensler Dallas with the New Initiatives - Small Award at the 33rd annual Obelisk Awards this year. This award recognizes businesses for significant engagement with the arts/culture within the past three years, and Stephen Walsh, Design Director, will accept on Gensler Dallas' behalf.

Gensler was founded in 1965 and now serves more than 3,500 active clients in virtually every industry. Gensler strives to “Create a Better World Through the Power of Design” in their work and service. Although a global firm, each office keeps strong community connections to give back locally. Stephen Walsh shares, “We are committed to creating spaces and places that strengthen neighborhoods, improve local economies, enhance health and well-being, and make everyone feel safe and welcome.”

Here in North Texas, that is evident in their partnership with the Creative Arts Center of Dallas. Their relationship began in 2017 when Gensler's Dustin Mattiza joined the CAC board upon graduation from the Business Council for the Arts' Leadership Arts Institute. Mattiza then moved to Austin, Texas so Walsh filled his seat on the board.

The following year, what began as a personal pledge to CAC quickly evolved into a corporate commitment when CAC received a \$200,000 grant from the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture to improve their building, which was originally built during the Depression by the Works Project Administration as an elementary school. Gensler Dallas provided in-kind services to design and manage the building of new offices, gallery, and ADA-compliant restrooms.

Despite significant setbacks during the project – additions to costs and plans, permitting, and of course, COVID-19, the Gensler Dallas team was “guided by determined optimism” in the purpose and power of their work as well as how they performed it. Diana Pollak, Executive Director of the CAC says, “Gensler is the world's largest architecture and design firm responsible for some of the most influential and prominent projects that are shaping the future of Dallas and neighboring cities, including 400 Record, Toyota Music Factory, Legacy West, Hall of State at Fair Park restoration, and The Star at Frisco. But the firm works in partnership with CAC just as it does with its larger clients...and showed incredible patience, steadfastness, and fortitude.”



With construction almost complete, the Creative Arts Center of Dallas will have a new space for many years to come, and there, citizen artists will be inspired by Gensler Dallas' architecture and design as they discover, develop, and express their artistic vision. Together, Gensler and their community partners "help foster the well-being of the next generation of artists and designers through the support, education, and training of students, to help ensure a diverse and inclusive future."

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**BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS INTRODUCES 2021 OBELISK
AWARDS HONOREE AT&T PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,
DISTINGUISHED CULTURAL ORGANIZATION – NOMINATED BY
BILLINGSLEY COMPANY**

DALLAS— Business Council for the Arts will proudly represent 33rd Obelisk Award for Distinguished Cultural Organization to AT&T Performing Arts Center as nominated by Billingsley Company. This award recognizes an arts and culture organization for its excellence, and AT&T Performing Center (ATTPAC) is more than deserving as they led the North Texas community (and many others) in navigating the pandemic.

The AT&T Performing Arts Center's mission is to provide a public gathering place that strengthens community and fosters creativity through the presentation of performing arts and arts education programs. Despite significant COVID-19 challenges, ATTPAC did not waver in their efforts to safely support and serve our community.

This accomplishment was guided by early priorities to continue providing North Texas with access to the performing arts virtually and in person as soon as safely possible and provide collaborative leadership in the arts community.

As leaders, ATTPAC provided critical resources on the COVID-19 arts economic impact surveys. Their staff worked closely with TACA, the Dallas Arts District, and the Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition to conduct the surveys, analyze the staggering numbers, and publicize the impact, which made front-page news. These stories were critical to garner support, especially of the Dallas City Council, to maintain funding for the arts.

When preparing to reopen, ATTPAC organized arts and health experts to develop and implement a set of safety guidelines to protect patrons, artists, staff, and volunteers. 51 Dallas organizations signed on and benefitted from this work as it provided a road map to recovery, and ATTPAC became one of the first performing arts centers in the U.S. to safely reopen in September 2020, starting with a new, notable program Live and Local.

Live and Local safely provided North Texas arts organizations with something in short supply during the pandemic: a stage for live, in-person performances. With Live and Local, ATTPAC waived rent and extended all their resources such as their outdoor venue Annette Strauss Square, ticketing, security, front of house team, backstage crew, COVID safety/screening equipment, and more. Organizations were only asked to cover



their hard costs. 35 organizations performed or held fundraisers in Strauss Square, with more performances planned through the end of the year. Strauss Square has never been busier and ATTPAC's collaborative work is something that would have made the venue's namesake, the late Mayor Annette Strauss, very proud.

ATTPAC's support and service goes beyond Strauss Square of course. During the pandemic, The Center launched its virtual program Listen: Up Close Concerts with Dallas Originals featuring local singer-songwriters, offering them paid opportunities to perform on screen. The Center created a wide range of free, virtual family and education programming for its YouTube channel ATTPAC@Home, providing work to a diverse range of artists. The Center's team also stepped up early in the pandemic to create masks and face shields for first responders and host socially distanced blood drives in Hamon Hall. And during the vaccination roll-out, the Center presented performances by local artists for the many patients waiting to be vaccinated at Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic in West Dallas.

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DALLAS— Business Council for the Arts will present *PATRON* Magazine with the Arts Partnerships (Small) Award at this year's Obelisk Awards, now in its 33rd year. *PATRON* Magazine was nominated by Ms. Nancy Cohen Israel and Founder, Publisher, and Editor-in-Chief, Terri Provencal, will accept the award.

PATRON Magazine is celebrating its 10th Anniversary with the October/November 2021 Issue and as a magazine dedicated to the visual and performing arts in North Texas the magazine from inception through the last decade has covered diverse voices in the arts from artists to arts patrons. *PATRON* partners with many arts organizations throughout North Texas in editorial content, sponsorship, and the Noted section of the magazine that provides listings to manifold arts organizations and local art galleries. *PATRON* recognizes the value of business and arts partnerships as Terri Provencal notes "At *PATRON*, we greatly admire the dedicated individuals, business leaders, and corporations of North Texas that know life would not be complete without the arts."

Dallas Arts District Executive Director, Lily Cabatu Weiss shares "*PATRON* Magazine is the contemporary voice of the arts, culture and design in Dallas and Fort Worth. This publication supports the cultural landscape of Dallas and through its thoughtful leadership and curation of cultural experience, *PATRON* propels the arts forward in the Dallas area and beyond."

Obelisk Award nominator, Nancy Cohen Israel, states "*PATRON* Magazine is a constant champion for local arts organization, large and small. In its pages, the stories of artists, arts administrators and patrons who continue to shape North Texas' cultural landscape, are told by writers who have themselves vast experience in working within the local arts community."

PATRON Magazine is not only enriching North Texas residents, but the publication serves as an ambassador to Dallas. With its boutique hotel distribution, *PATRON* reaches many visitors to the city and enlightens them to the rich cultural offerings of the area.



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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS TO HONOR CATHRYN MCCLELLAN KELLY WITH OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP ARTS ALUMNUS AWARD AT THE 2021 OBELISK AWARDS

COLLIN COUNTY— Cathryn McClellan Kelly, Education Specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Co-Chair of the Leadership Arts Alumni Steering Committee, will be honored with the Outstanding Leadership Arts Alumnus Award at the 33rd annual Obelisk Awards.

Cathryn's work with the HERitage Giving Fund has been a focus for her in 2021 funding Black women led arts organizations such as Soul Rep Theatre Company so they may continue supporting the production of plays written by Black playwrights about Black narratives. Cathryn is a constant advocate for arts and culture and helps to recruit the next generation of board members for North Texas organizations hoping to continue to diversify the representation of board members by age, gender and race. Cathryn states "I know that funding is the lifeblood of an organization, so I help bring a diverse perspective to funders to allow small or new artist organizations to receive funding for the exciting work they are doing for the arts community."

Cathryn's career has included working for nonprofits as the Marketing Manager for Communities Foundation of Texas supporting North Texas Giving Day and the Leadership Manager of the Dallas Regional Chamber. Those coupled with her experience in Leadership Arts Institute (2019 – 2021) have given Cathryn the skills and knowledge to be a force for change in North Texas. Cathryn holds multiple board service roles including Founding Member of the HERitage Giving Fund at Texas Women's Foundation, Co-Chair of the Leadership Arts Alumni Steering Committee, Grant Panelist for the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, and Board President of The Gems Camp. Cathryn's nonprofit work has centered around engaging with the arts, equity for Black and minority organizations, and encouraging women and girl's empowerment.

Rhiannon Martin, who nominated Cathryn, describes her as "a strong and passionate supporter of the arts who gives her time, talent and treasure to serve many arts organizations across North Texas. Cathryn is a leader in LAA, contributing new and innovative ideas and sharing her expertise in fundraising and other board-related subjects. I'm proud to have this amazing human who is making such an incredible impact on the arts in North Texas as my partner in service with LAA."



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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS TO HONOR ANN M. WILLIAMS WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT THE 2021 OBELISK AWARDS

DALLAS— Business Council for the Arts will proudly present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Ms. Ann M. Williams at this year's Obelisk Awards. Williams was nominated by Ms. Zenetta Drew.

Ann M. Williams founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) in 1976. Now in its 45th anniversary year, Ms. Williams grew Dallas Black Dance Theatre from a community-based organization and a semi-professional organization to a fully professional dance company recognized as the fourth largest black dance company in the nation. DBDT tours annually throughout the state, nationally and internationally. During its history, the company has performed in 31 states, 16 countries and on 5 continents. Most notable performances include two Cultural Olympiad appearances and performances for Queen Elizabeth II and President Nelson Mandela. DBDT has been recognized by the NEA as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist and has received the Texas Medal of the Arts Award for Arts Education.

The Dallas Black Dance Academy trains over 500 students weekly in classes of ballet, modern, jazz, tap, African and hip hop. The Academy has produced nine Presidential Scholars in dance including the first Presidential Scholar in dance in the nation in 1980.

In May of 2014, Ms. Williams officially retired as Artistic Director of the organization. She remains actively involved with the dance company as an emeritus member of the Board of Directors.

In addition to founding Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Ms. Williams is a founding member of the Dance Council of North Texas, the Advisory Board of the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and The International Association of Blacks in Dance.

Presently, Ms. Williams is an active dance consultant. She serves on the boards of The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Ursuline Academy of Dallas, and the Dallas Summer Musicals Management Group. She is also a fine arts consultant to the Houston Energized for Excellence STEM Academies as well as a panelist for many city, state, and national agencies. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Incorporated and a lifetime member of the NAACP.



Ms. Williams received her early dance training under Barbara Hollis (a member of the Katherine Dunham Dance Company), Edith James, Doris Humphrey, and Charles Weidman. She received additional training under Alvin Ailey and Arthur Mitchell. Ms. Williams is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University and the first African American to earn a Master of Arts degree in Dance and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University. She was honored as a "distinguished alumna" by both universities and received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Northwood University, and in May 2008 was awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Dance from TWU. She served six years on the Texas Woman's University Board of 3 Regents. She is a 2002 inductee into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame; and in April 2005, she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as a part of the Masters of African American Choreography series.

Katherine Wagner, CEO of Business Council for the Arts, says "It is a privilege to celebrate Ann Williams. She is a catalyst, an icon, and a role model."

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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS TO HONOR ATMOS ENERGY WITH NEW INITIATIVES - LARGE AWARD AT THE 2021 OBELSIK AWARDS

DALLAS— Business Council for the Arts will proudly represent the New Initiatives – Large Award to Atmos Energy at this year’s Obelisk Awards. Atmos Energy was nominated by ArtCentre of Plano.

This award recognizes businesses for significant engagement with the arts/culture within the past three years, and Atmos Energy regularly partners with North Texas arts organizations to support the educational development of school age children through their program Fueling Safe and Thriving Communities, which focuses on “fueling bright minds and healthy futures”. Through partnerships, Atmos Energy provides community access to free summer art camps, theatrical performances, museum exhibits, fine arts education, and more.

One notable partnership is with ArtCentre of Plano. In 2020, Atmos Energy provided financial support for exhibitions and take-home activities. From 2019-2021, Atmos Energy gave financial and volunteer support for the ArtCentre’s summer arts camp, Jump Start for Arts. This program (in-person prior to COVID, and “on-the-go” during the pandemic) provides a variety of art experiences for economically disadvantaged students. Atmos Energy’s own mascot, Rosey, joined to teach about gas safety. In 2018, Atmos Energy committed financial support for field trips for Plano ISD students to attend the 2018 Kinsey Collection’s outstanding Harlem Renaissance Exhibition (over 7,000 middle school students participated). The impact of this partnership on students was tremendous; many of the students said it was their first visit to an art gallery or museum. Furthermore, the content of the exhibition was powerful. It presented the history of African-American culture through art in many mediums, including paintings, sculpture and ephemera. The exhibition opened the eyes of students, parents, and teachers to an important aspect of American history.

Their strong business/arts partnership continues to evolve to meet the needs of the Plano community where thousands of students have been able to enjoy the opportunities provided by the ArtCentre because of these sponsorships.

Ms. Suzy Jones, Executive Director of ArtCentre of Plano shares, “As you can readily see, Atmos has a deep and sincere recognition of the importance of the arts not only to



children, but to communities as a whole. Atmos understands that the arts contribute to a community's well-being."

Rebecca Silvestri of Local Profile and this year's Obelisk Awards co-chair says, "Atmos Energy makes a real difference in our community through their partnership with ArtCentre of Plano. Together, you ensure the bright future for the families of North Texas. Thank you, thank you!"

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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS INTRODUCES 2021 OBELISK AWARDS HONOREE NORTH TEXAS PERFORMING ARTS, ARTS EDUCATION

NORTH TEXAS— Get to know North Texas Performing Arts (NTPA), Business Council for the Arts 2021 Obelisk Award Honoree for Arts Education.

NTPA is the largest youth-focused performing arts organization in the country, presenting classes, camps, and productions for ages five through 18, as well adult programming under the NTPA Repertory and Community Theatre. NTPA believes that every young person should have the opportunity to take the stage and have their voices heard. Founded by Sara Akers in 1991 as the Plano Children's Theatre, NTPA is now comprised of five youth theatre troupes in Dallas, Fairview, Frisco, Plano and Southlake.

North Texas Performing Arts mission is to develop the character of youth through quality performing arts education and family entertainment. NTPA believes that theatre changes lives and strives to teach students not only how to act, sing, or dance but also how to be better humans with their 10 characters of North Texas Performing Arts: Teamwork, Leadership, Responsibility, Respect, Confidence, Integrity, Discipline, Gratitude, Positive Attitude, and Love One Another.

Each year, NTPA impacts over 11,000 young people with their key programming. NTPA Youth Theatre Troupes is for performers ages 5 – 18 years old. NTPA Academy is a daytime academic program with an emphasis on performing arts education for youth ages 13- 18, and NTPA Community Theatre engages families onstage together regardless of ability level. NTPA also has specialized programming including NTPA Starcatcher for neuro-atypical youth and adults to participate in music and drama, led by a drama therapist. NTPA Collegiate Pursuits is an intensive training for young people pursuing performing arts in college and NTPA Repertory is a semi-professional adult group of performers who bring "Broadway to the 'Burbs".

The main facility of NTPA is the largest youth-dedicated performing arts venue in the country and located in Plano at the Shops at Willow Bend. The partnership that North Texas Performing Arts has with the Shops at Willow Bend has been instrumental in NTPA's ability to present more than 150 productions and 1,100 performances annually. NTPA draws over 220,000 visits to the Shops at Willow Bend each year with its



productions that in turn boost visits to the shopping center's retailers, restaurants and more throughout the year. This mutually beneficial partnership led the Shops at Willow Bend to nominate NTPA for a 2021 Obelisk Award.

Learn more about North Texas Performing Arts and get tickets to upcoming September shows including Legally Blonde The Musical, Into the Woods, Cinderella, and High School Musical at www.ntpa.org.

According to 2021 Obelisk Awards co-chairs, Rebecca and Philip Silvestri: "North Texas Performing Arts has profoundly influence the lives of thousands of young people since it's founding, providing them with skills for life garnered through theater practice."

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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS INTRODUCES 2021 OBELISK AWARDS HONOREE SATISH GUPTA, ARTS PHILANTHROPY

DALLAS— Meet Satish Gupta, Founder of SB International Inc. and Business Council for the Arts 2021 Obelisk Award Honoree for Arts Philanthropy

Over 35 years ago, Mr. Gupta founded SB International, Inc., a company with over \$1 billion in revenue, which is one of the largest manufacturers, processors, and distributors of oil and gas pipes in North America. SB International, Inc. was listed in the Dallas Business Journal as one of the 100 fastest growing private companies in the Dallas Metroplex area for three consecutive years.

In addition to being a very successful businessman, Satish Gupta strongly believes in giving back to the community and has said that this is his passion. He has been a leading philanthropist in Dallas area for more than twenty years.

Satish Gupta was born in Haryana, India and completed his bachelor's degree in Economics from Loyola College in Chennai in 1979. He came to the United States to complete his MBA, which he earned in 1981 at UD-COB. In 2013, Satish graduated from the esteemed OPM executive education program at Harvard Business School.

Mr. Gupta is a dedicated advocate of promoting and preserving Indian culture in the United States. He is a man of vision and action, organizing and managing the DFW Indian Cultural Society. Since 2006, Diwali Mela (Festival of Lights) has been DFW ICS' annual, signature event. It is held at the Cotton Bowl in Fair Park and draws 30-40,000 people each year. The festival is a true example of unity in diversity, where people come from far and wide to enjoy and learn about a new culture from a distant land.

His efforts are not limited to those mentioned above as he strongly supports additional arts and cultural events in Dallas. Those include thinkIndia Foundation, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Symphony, and many more. In addition to cultural contributions, he founded the Gupta Agarwal Charitable Foundation in 2007 to actively support education, public health, medical research, and cultural awareness. Recently, he made a major contribution to the Baylor Scott and White Heart hospital in Plano for research purpose as well as an incredibly generous donation to establish a 50,000 sq ft business school at The University of Dallas, The Satish and Yasmin Gupta College of Business.



Mr. Gupta has received many recognitions for his humanitarian service and leadership. Those include Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Dallas Business Journal's Minority Business Leader Award, AACSB's Influential Leaders Award, US India Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Community Service Award, KERA's CEO program, and many more.

Business Council for the Arts is thrilled that thinkIndia Foundation nominated Mr. Gupta for a 2021 Obelisk Award and cannot wait to honor him alongside the eleven other deserving honorees. According to Obelisk Award chairs, Philip and Rebecca Silvestri: "Satish's brilliance in business is matched by his depth of thought and generosity toward the cultural arts, particularly the arts of India."

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BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS TO HONOR TOYOTA WITH ARTS PARTNERSHIPS (LARGE) AWARD AT THE 2021 OBELISK AWARDS

DALLAS— Business Council for the Arts will present Toyota with the Arts Partnerships (Large) Award at this year’s Obelisk Awards, now in its 33rd year. Toyota was nominated by AT&T Performing Arts Center and Chris Reynolds, Chief Administration Officer, will accept the award virtually.

Toyota has a long history of supporting communities near and far, and since arriving in North Texas, this includes a significant investment in arts and culture through an innovative partnership with the AT&T Performing Arts Center, ArtsBridge – Powered by Toyota.

“The arts can challenge us with different points of view. They help spark creativity for the innovators of tomorrow. They build the next generation of well-rounded thought leaders and community members,” said Chris Reynolds, chief administration officer, Toyota Motor North America. “Together with AT&T Performing Arts Center and the West Dallas community, Toyota created ArtsBridge to help open a world of possibilities - engaging residents in their community and in the Dallas Arts District through a series of concerts, music workshops and cultural events.”

ArtsBridge supports Toyota’s and AT&T Performing Arts Center commitment to inclusion by improving access to artistic experiences for residents both where they live and at the Center. The program - co-created with the community – provides a series of performances, workshops, and cultural activities in West Dallas. The aim is to bring culturally relevant and locally informed content that sparks passion for the arts. Through Toyota’s funding, all ArtsBridge programs are offered to West Dallas residents free of charge, including complimentary transportation to the AT&T Performing Arts Center when needed.

ArtsBridge has served thousands of West Dallas residents through performances, community and school events, workshops, and trips to the AT&T Performing Arts Center to see world-class shows. Last year, more than 1,500 West Dallas residents were served through 33 arts events. All ArtsBridge projects are evaluated with survey tools developed in conjunction with SMU’s Center on Research and Evaluation. As an example, during a music workshop series for senior citizens at the West Dallas



Multipurpose Center, 100% of 20 participants surveyed said they enjoyed the workshops, and 100% learned something new. 94% of participants expressed a desire to participate in more arts programming at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center after completing the workshop series.

“We have seen first-hand, the joy and energy these programs bring to our community,” said City Councilmember Omar Narvaez, who represents West Dallas. “Whether its salsa lessons for seniors, mariachi master classes, putting kids on the stage in Strauss Square, or commissioning a powerful mural on social justice, ArtsBridge and Toyota are connecting our residents with exciting cultural experiences and having a positive impact.”

Notably with ArtsBridge, Toyota and AT&T Performing Arts Center have created a blueprint for connecting communities to the arts that can serve as a model for scale and replication in areas outside of North Texas.

Debbie Storey with AT&T Performing Arts Center says, “Toyota has been an outstanding arts partner that is helping the Center serve our community and fulfill Dallas Cultural Plan goals, including the top two, Equity and Diversity.”

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