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Press Contact:
Chelsea Holmes
704.890.2318 (C)
Chelsea.holmes@ntbca.org

BCA's Leadership Arts Institute Class Raises \$49,000 for The Texas Discovery Gardens, Local Artists and Galleries

Dallas County – The 2021 Business Council for the Arts Leadership Arts Institute (LAI) Dallas class hosted a celebration fundraising event and art auction, *The Art of Discovery*, on Saturday, April 24 at The Texas Discovery Gardens (TDG), a champion of biodiversity in North Texas. The 2021 LAI Dallas class raised over \$33,000 to provide critically needed repairs to the TDG greenhouses that preserve endangered species of plants unique to North Texas. The class also provided participating local galleries and artists with over \$16,000 in proceeds from the auction. With the *Art of Discovery*, this year's LAI Dallas class has shown that supporting local art and biodiversity go hand-in-hand in create thriving, healthy communities.

BCA CEO Katherine Wagner states “Artists, gallerists, and art patrons are among the most passionate when it comes to ensuring that our planet is healthy, verdant, and life-supporting. This year’s Leadership Arts class in Dallas has been visionary in bringing art and regional biodiversity together. They have raised funds for the Texas Discovery Garden, brought heightened awareness of native flora and fauna, and supported the arts through [The Art of Discovery](#).”

Project co-chairs Colleen Murray and Thomas Spencer were joined by more than 140 attendees for the evening, which included refreshments from Two Sisters Catering in the garden and entertainment from Celeste Gaiera of Texas Ballet Theater, harpist Lorenzo Gonzalez, and the Ballet Folklorico Ollimpaxqui. Guests marveled at the two-story Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium and learned about the importance of biodiversity from North Texas Master Gardeners.

The evening of celebration was preceded by a virtual auction of art provided by local artists and gallerists. These unique art expressions, inspired by the local flora and fauna of North Texas, were on view during the celebration at Texas Discovery Gardens.

The *Art of Discovery* was made possible through the generous support of its presenting sponsors, the ThompsonKnight Foundation and Meridian Veterinary Real Estate, as well as support from The Beck Group, Corgan, Hall Group, Interceramic, Jones Day, and individual donors.



Each year, BCA's Leadership Arts Institute cohorts plan and execute a class project through the nine-month program that develops next-generation business leaders committed to fostering the arts. The project gives participants an opportunity to practice skills they learn in class, gain leadership experience through a simulated board, receive exposure to the arts and culture community and create a legacy that will leave their mark on North Texas. Two cohorts are held each year in Dallas and in Collin and Denton counties. For more information and to apply to be a part of the Leadership Arts Institute Class of 2022 please visit www.ntbca.org/lai.

Business Council for the Arts

Business Council for the Arts encourages, inspires, and stimulates businesses and municipalities to support the arts in the workplace, in education, and in the community. We are a connector between commerce and culture. Our programs bring wellness and equity into the workplace through the arts, develop next-generation business leaders for arts boards, inject creativity into work teams, and bring business practices into the arts. Contact us at bca@ntbca.org for more information.

Texas Discovery Gardens

The first public garden in the state of Texas to be certified 100% organic, the Texas Discovery Gardens (TDG) located in historic Fair Park, is a 7.5 acre organic garden featuring native and adapted plants with two-story Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium that transports you to a tropical rainforest, complete with hundreds of free-flying butterflies! Family festivals, workshops, free admission days, and our extensive EarthKeepers® student education program introduce children and adults to natural outdoor learning experiences.