



Business Council for the Arts CEO Katherine Wagner Announces Retirement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Dallas, TX – Business Council for the Arts (BCA) announces the retirement of CEO Katherine Wagner. Wagner has led BCA, the premier organization for forging business-arts partnerships in North Texas, for nearly 14 years. Wagner plans to retire June 1, 2023. BCA’s Board of Directors began the succession process last year, and will soon be announcing Wagner’s successor.

“Katherine has been an excellent steward of this important organization,” said Founder’s Chair Nancy A. Nasher. “She has institutionalized best practices across the board while creating new programs that will help us thrive in the years to come.” BCA Board Chair Joel Austin added, “Katherine’s leadership, innovation, and impact on our ability to carry out our mission and evolve our approach to meet today’s unique circumstances have BCA on a great path forward.”

During Wagner’s tenure, BCA initiated an innovative business-facing strategy, offering businesses proven programs that positively impact engagement and retention, health and wellness, equity, inclusion and diversity, and community connections through arts and culture.

Wagner led the 2010 and 2015 region-wide Arts & Economic Prosperity studies in partnership with Americans for the Arts, our nation’s arts advocacy organization, to measure the economic impact of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. These reports reflected a three-fold growth in only five years, to \$1.5 billion dollars, drawing attention from municipal and business leaders who invest in arts and culture. Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 is currently underway, with a new report that will be issued in fall 2023.

Responding to the need for BCA programming in Collin and Denton Counties, Wagner and the BCA Board of Directors expanded the trademarked Leadership Arts program as well as corporate memberships to the wider North Texas region. Wagner has served as a mentor to more than 600 Leadership Arts graduates, promoting their service to arts and culture organizations and guiding their legacy projects.

At the same time, the Obelisk Awards, the pre-eminent award of excellence at the intersection of commerce and culture, has doubled in attendance and recognized our



most important arts and business leaders. The 2023 Obelisk Awards will be held on November 9 at the new JW Marriott located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District.

"None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the wisdom, generosity, and talent of our extraordinary BCA Board of Directors, whom I am greatly thankful for. I also want to recognize our partners in the business and nonprofit communities that have been key in fostering business-arts alliances," said Wagner.

About Business Council for the Arts

For more than 35 years, Business Council for the Arts has stimulated municipalities, businesses, and individuals to support the arts in the workplace, in education, and in the community throughout North Texas. The organization is governed by a diverse Board of Directors, led by Founder's Chair Nancy A. Nasher and Board Chair Joel Austin, who represent leading businesses in North Texas. For more information about Business Council for the Arts, visit ntbca.org.

###