



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## ***ON MY OWN TIME***

### **A CALL FOR COMPANIES TO SHOWCASE EMPLOYEES' ARTISTIC AND LITERARY TALENTS**

NORTH TEXAS--Business Council for the Arts (BCA) has the perfect antidote for artistic professionals needing a creative outlet during these stay-at-home times brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic.

#### **On My Own Time**

Now in its twenty-eighth year, On My Own Time (OMOT) is a region-wide corporate arts competition showcasing creativity from the home studios of visual and literary artists. The show incorporates works from photographers, fiber artists, painters, wood carvers, digital artists, glassblowers, jewelers, architects, and authors who populate the business world by day.

Katherine Wagner, CEO of BCA, reports, "As a result of COVID-19, the healing aspects of making art have been underscored. On My Own Time gives visibility and recognition to the range of creative expression that employees are finding in the arts."

#### **An Activity for the Entire Family**

OMOT is a family affair, open not only to employees but also to their families as an outlet for their creativity. Participating companies have the option to exhibit the work of employees' children and spouses as part of their internal art show.

#### **New Initiatives in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis**

Estelle Hernandez, BCA Engagement & Creativity Manager in charge of this event, explains that OMOT is a great way to maintain connection between co-workers at all professional levels while they are working from home. "This year we are responding to the COVID-19 crisis with some new initiatives for OMOT. For example, virtual galleries will allow employees to see the art their colleagues made while they were at home

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during shelter-in-place,” she noted. An online toolbox with DIY content for art-making is also among additions to the program for 2020.

## **Honoring Winners**

Sponsoring companies must register with Business Council for the Arts by May 15, 2020. The Regional Visual Arts Reception will be held at NorthPark Center on September 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.. Literary Night for winning authors is scheduled for October 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the ATT Performing Arts Center. In addition, a Winner’s Gallery will be established online, as will a showcase website for all entrants. Returning entrants to date include Corgan, Gensler, PwC, The Beck Group, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and Baylor, Scott & White Health.

## **Register by May 15**

Registration by May 15 may be completed online by visiting <https://ntbca.org/omot>. Entries must be received at Business Council for the Arts headquarters, 8687 North Central Expressway, Suite 2131 (NorthPark Center), by 5 p.m. on May 15. Entry fees range between \$540 and \$1,700, depending on BCA membership status and entering company size. For additional information, contact Estelle Hernandez at [estelle.hernandez@ntbca.org](mailto:estelle.hernandez@ntbca.org) or call 972.991.8300, X601.

## **About Business Council for the Arts**

Business Council for the Arts was founded in 1988 by the late Raymond Nasher, developer of NorthPark Center and namesake of the Nasher Sculpture Center in the Dallas Arts District, along with other North Texas community leaders. The BCA’s purpose is to encourage, connect and stimulate businesses to support the arts in the workplace, in education and in the North Texas region. For more information about BCA and its other programs, contact CEO Katherine Wagner at 972.991.8300, X600.

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