

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2025 OBELISK AWARDS CO-CHAIRS AND HONORARY CHAIRS

Sponsors renew their support as nominations for the iconic awards open now through June 20



NORTH TEXAS—May 28, 2025 --The Business Council for the Arts (BCA) Board of Directors is proud to announce that **Mr. Michael Janicek** and **Mrs. Courtney Johnson** will serve as Co-Chairs and of BCA's <u>Obelisk Awards</u> and Luncheon and **Mr. Craig Hall** and **Ambassador Kathryn Hall** will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs at the JW Marriott Dallas Arts District on November 19, 2025.

**Mr. Janicek** has been a dedicated member of the BCA Board of Directors since 2019 and serves on its <u>Arts & Health</u> Committee. In this role, he has leveraged his environmental design expertise to advance this long-standing series, building collaborations with local healthcare institutions, professionals, and industry experts. He works with the committee to develop programs that showcase the healing power of the arts, now presenting multiple ticketed events annually. As a Senior Associate and Senior Lighting Designer at Corgan, Michael applies the same visionary approach to create award-winning lighting schemes for churches, performance halls, corporate headquarters, and airports—using light to both accentuate architectural form and enrich human experience. A committed mentor to emerging talent, he continually pushes the boundaries of what thoughtful lighting can achieve, balancing aesthetic innovation with functional excellence.

**Mrs. Johnson** has been a dedicated member of the BCA Board of Directors since January 2022, and sits on its <u>Arts & Real Estate</u> Committee. In that capacity, she collaborates with fellow committee members to explore innovative ways to integrate art and design within the development and real estate industries. A recent example of this impactful work includes the committee's partnership with Downtown Dallas, Inc., which is transforming vacant storefronts into vibrant art installations by local artists, breathing new life into underused spaces. In 2024, Courtney chaired the Obelisk Awards, and she enthusiastically agreed to co-chair the 2025 Awards alongside Mr. Janicek—much to his delight. As the Director of Internal Experiences for Capital One's Financial Services division, Courtney combines strategic insight with a passion for design to cultivate programs and environments that spark innovation, foster collaboration, and strengthen workplace culture.

Each year, BCA names Honorary Chairs for their support for arts and culture and business leadership in North Texas. The 2025 Honorary Co-Chairs are Mr. Craig Hall and Ambassador Kathryn Hall. Mr. Hall and Ambassador Hall co-lead Hall Group and the Hall Foundation, blending real estate innovation with robust philanthropy. Through Hall Group's transformation of Dallas's urban landscape—including the HALL Arts mixed-use development—they champion art-driven community revitalization. As vintners and venture investors, they diversify North Texas's cultural economy. Their Hall Foundation supports arts education, museum exhibitions, and performing arts organizations across the region. Recognized for decades of civic leadership, the Halls consistently leverage their business acumen and networks to elevate the arts and foster public-private partnerships that enrich Dallas's cultural vitality. They also fund healthcare, education, and community development initiatives across Texas broadly.

"I'm delighted that three of our longest-standing member organizations — Corgan, Capital One, and Hall Group — are represented this year by leaders who embody their companies' unwavering commitment to the arts. Michael Janicek of Corgan and Courtney Johnson of Capital One bring exceptional vision and dedication as this year's powerhouse co-chair team, and we're honored to welcome Kathryn and Craig Hall — founders of Hall Group and the driving forces behind Hall Foundation — as honorary chairs," says **Stacie Adams, BCA's CEO**. "Their participation underscores the depth of engagement these companies have shown over the years, and I can't imagine a more fitting team to guide this year's Obelisk Awards."

## **Obelisk Sponsors Begin to Re-Up for 2025**

BCA is also proud to announce <u>Capital One</u> and <u>Corgan</u> as the Co-Presenting Sponsors, <u>Oncor</u> and Nancy A. Nasher + David J. Haemisegger as Connoisseur-level sponsors, and <u>Neiman</u> <u>Marcus</u> and <u>NorthPark Center</u> as Collector-level sponsors, among others.

"Every sponsorship of the Obelisk Awards does more than underwrite the luncheon celebration—it provides the essential resources that sustain BCA's work throughout the year," shares **Joel Austin, BCA's Board Chair**. "Because of our sponsors' commitment, we have the capacity to cultivate partnerships, convene leaders, and advocate for the arts across North Texas. Their support is the foundation that makes everything BCA accomplishes—from community engagement to leadership development—possible."

Sponsorship packages include marketing recognition, outdoor billboard placement, a VIP Art Experience, and complimentary valet parking for all attendees. Sponsorship details can be found at <a href="https://ntbca.org/obelisk-sponsorships/">https://ntbca.org/obelisk-sponsorships/</a>

#### 2025 Obelisk Nominations Now Open

The Obelisk Awards, presented by the BCA each year, recognize business leaders and companies for their invaluable contributions to supporting arts and culture in North Texas.

The 2025 award categories include:

- Business Champion for the Arts
- Emerging Business Champion for the Arts\*
- Outstanding Leadership Arts Alumnus
- Arts Partnership
- New Initiative
- Arts Education

## \*New Category for the 2025 Obelisk Awards

Nominations for the 2025 Obelisk Awards may be submitted online at <u>https://ntbca.org/2025-nominate/</u> and are due by June 20, 2025.

To learn more about our past honorees, a full program of the 2024 Obelisk Awards can be found at <a href="https://ntbca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Obelisk-Digital-Program.pdf">https://ntbca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Obelisk-Digital-Program.pdf</a>.

#### Poised for Another Sellout Year

"For this 37th Obelisk Awards, we celebrate not only the remarkable achievements of our honorees but the enduring spirit of collaboration that defines North Texas," shares **Nancy A. Nasher, BCA's Founder's Chair**. "These leaders show us that true innovation in the arts and business is born from bold ideas and generous hearts. Their stories inspire each of us—through volunteerism, philanthropy, and creative partnership—to build a more vibrant, connected community for years to come."

Tables are now available for purchase. A limited number of single tickets will go on sale on September 29, 2025.

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

Since its founding in 1988 by developer and philanthropist Raymond D. Nasher as a Dallas Citizens Council initiative to foster parallel growth in North Texas's cultural and business sectors, the Business Council for the Arts (BCA) has thrived under visionary leadership. In 2008, Nasher's daughter, Nancy A. Nasher, succeeded him as Founder's Chair, bringing her own passion and dedication to the organization's mission. Today, Founder's Chair Nancy A. Nasher and Board Chair Joel Austin guide a 36-member board and a dedicated staff led by BCA CEO Stacie Adams. Through its membership of more than 150 leading businesses and organizations, BCA champions the arts in workplaces, classrooms, and communities across the region.

BCA's programming spans creative workforce development, community engagement, and leadership cultivation. Signature initiatives include **On My Own Time™**, an annual art competition that spotlights employees' visual and literary talents, and **Art at Work**, which embeds rotating exhibitions by local artists into corporate offices to strengthen team-building, wellness, and company culture. Committee-led series—Arts & Health, Arts & Real Estate, and Arts & Technology—explore how the arts drive innovation, well-being, and community revitalization, while the **Leadership Arts Institute** prepares emerging and established professionals to serve as effective arts advocates and nonprofit board members. For more information or to join, visit <u>www.ntbca.org</u>.