

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Business Council for the Arts Announces Winners of the 2025 Obelisk Awards Presented by Capital One and Corgan

Seven Honorees Recognized for Impact on Arts, Culture, and Community in North Texas

NORTH TEXAS (August 18, 2025)—Business Council for the Arts (BCA) today announced seven North Texas businesses and individuals whose leadership and commitment to the arts will be celebrated at the 37th annual Obelisk Awards Presented by Capital One and Corgan on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the JW Marriott Dallas Arts District.

Founded in 1988, Business Council for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing business support for arts and culture. With a membership of 150 leading North Texas companies and organizations, BCA provides arts-based employee engagement programs such as Leadership Arts Institute, On My Own Time™ Art Competition, and ArtWorks to its member organizations. BCA's annual signature event, the Obelisk Awards, stands as the region's premier celebration of business-arts partnerships. This event draws a large audience of executives, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders each year to honor those whose investments of time, talent, and resources have transformed North Texas' cultural landscape.

"This year's Obelisk honorees exemplify the extraordinary impact business leaders have when they invest in the arts," said Oncor Senior Vice President and BCA Board Chair Joel Austin. "Their time, talent, and resources strengthen our cultural identity, fuel innovation, and make North Texas a destination for both business and creativity. We are especially proud to introduce the new Emerging Business

Champion for the Arts Award, recognizing a rising leader whose commitment will help carry forward our region's vibrant cultural legacy."

This year's event is co-chaired by BCA Executive Board Members Michael Janicek, Senior Associate and Senior Lighting Designer at Corgan, and Courtney Johnson, Director of Internal Experiences at Capital One. They serve alongside Honorary Chairs Craig and Kathryn Hall, founders of HALL Group.

"Strong leadership is at the heart of the 2025 Obelisk Awards," said BCA Founder's Chair Nancy A. Nasher, owner of NorthPark Center. "Courtney Johnson's exceptional work as Chair last year inspired us to launch a two-year leadership model, ensuring valuable lessons and relationships carry forward. This year, she is joined by Michael Janicek, who will lead again in 2026 — a partnership that reflects the spirit of collaboration and continuity that drives both the Obelisk Awards and our North Texas arts community. We are also deeply grateful to Honorary Chairs Craig and Kathryn Hall, whose visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to the arts have enriched our community in extraordinary ways for many decades. With this remarkable team at the helm, the 2025 Obelisk Awards will shine an even brighter light on the essential role business leaders play in sustaining and growing the cultural vibrancy of North Texas."

Michael Janicek noted the significance of that mission. "The Obelisk Awards offer a meaningful opportunity to celebrate those working behind the scenes to elevate the arts as a defining part of Dallas' cultural identity. By honoring pioneers and steadfast supporters of North Texas arts and culture, we lay the groundwork for continued growth in our creative community for years to come."

For Courtney Johnson, the celebration is also about recognizing a shared vision. "The 2025 Obelisk honorees reflect a collective commitment to advancing the arts as an essential part of North Texas' identity and future. Their leadership and advocacy help preserve our region's cultural legacy while paving the way for continued artistic growth and innovation. It is a privilege to celebrate their lasting impact on our community."

The 2025 Business Council for the Arts Obelisk Awards Honorees include:

Business Champion for the Arts – Quincy Roberts, CEO, Q. Roberts Inc.

Quincy Roberts is a visionary business leader and third-generation CEO of Q. Roberts Inc., a family company that has grown from Roberts Trucking into a leading provider of earthwork, construction aggregate manufacturing, and trucking services. Since taking the helm, he has led major infrastructure projects across Dallas-Fort Worth, including Globe Life Field and the high-profile remediation of Shingle Mountain, turning a public health hazard into a safe, revitalized space. He serves as Chairman of the Board of The Dallas Opera, where he also performs, and as Vice Chairman of the Board of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, championing artistic excellence and expanding community access to music. His service on advisory boards for organizations aiding homeless families and children reflects his dedication to enriching lives through culture, innovation, and philanthropy. *Nominated by Michelle Miller Burns, Ross Perot President and CEO of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Ian Derrer, Kern Wildenthal General*

Director and CEO, The Dallas Opera, and Roger Gault, Board Chair, Dallas Symphony Orchestra and President, Gault Company.

Emerging Business Champion for the Arts – Peter Zwick, Partner, Jones Day

Peter Zwick is a partner in the Dallas office of the global law firm Jones Day, where he advises businesses across Texas and the United States on major corporate finance transactions, investor relations, and strategic governance concerns. A 2021 graduate of the Business Council for the Arts Leadership Arts Institute, Peter joined the Dean's Advisory Council for the UT Dallas Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology the same year. He has since become a driving force in advancing arts education, chairing the school's internship committee to create pathways for students to engage with the arts professionally, as well as advising the dean and faculty on academic program development and external engagement. In 2023, he was recognized as the school's Outstanding Advisory Council Member, an extraordinary honor achieved within just two years of joining. The Bass School offers programs in animation and games, emerging media arts, and humanities, including visual and performing arts. Peter is also a trustee and Executive Committee member of Uplift Education, which serves 23,000 students across 45 schools in DFW. Nearly 80% of Uplift alumni are the first in their families to attend college, and Uplift graduates materially outpace their county peers in early-career outcomes. His leadership and community engagement reflect a deep and sustained commitment to strengthening arts and culture in North Texas. *Nominated by Terry Han and Holly Miori, the current and former Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Harry W. Bass School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas, and Evan Singer, Partner, Jones Day.*

Arts Education – CMC

CMC, a global leader in sustainable steelmaking and early-stage construction solutions headquartered in Irving, Texas, has made a lasting impact on arts education, since 1978, through its annual Scrap Can Be Beautiful contest and exhibit held in partnership with Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas for the school's 3D design and sculpture students. Using metal scrap donated by a local CMC recycling yard, students transform metal materials into original works of art. Entries are judged by a panel of professional artists and community members—many of whom have been involved for decades. Winning students receive monetary awards from CMC, and all participants may sell their work through a virtual silent auction, keeping 100% of the proceeds. This long-running program blends arts education with environmental sustainability, inspiring creativity while fostering valuable skills in design, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship. CMC's steadfast commitment to this initiative reflects its belief in the transformative power of the arts and its dedication to giving back to the communities where it lives and works. *Nominated by Jessica Bell, Faculty, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and George Tobolowsky, Visual Artist.*

Arts Partnership – Peterbilt

Peterbilt, headquartered in Denton, Texas, is a global leader in the trucking industry, known for superior engineering, quality, and craftsmanship. The company pairs this tradition of excellence with a long-standing commitment to the arts and cultural heritage, building meaningful connections in the DFW area as both an employer and corporate partner. For the past eight years, Peterbilt has sponsored the Denton Black Film Festival, supporting its Tech Expo, educational workshops, and programming that celebrates Black culture and creativity. At the 2025 festival, the company funded the original short film

Quakertown: A Legacy of Resilience and is a major sponsor of the Quakertown USA Project, preserving and sharing the history of Denton's historic Black community. Guided by its core values of integrity, excellence, and respect, Peterbilt advances community engagement through its Diversity Council and Employee Resource Groups, including the Peterbilt Black Organization for Leadership and Development (PB BOLD). Led by Frank Johnson, Pricing Manager, and Jessica McDowell, Marketing Operations Manager, PB BOLD strengthens the company's impact on arts and cultural initiatives, fostering cultural preservation, identity, and pride. *Nominated by Harry Eady, Executive Director, Denton Black Film Festival, Dr. Karen Hutzel, Dean, College of Visual Arts and Design, University of North Texas, and Krissi Oden, Executive Director, Greater Denton Arts Council.*

Outstanding Leadership Arts Alumnus – Ahava Silkey-Jones, Vice Provost, Dallas College School of Creative Arts, Entertainment, and Design

Ahava Silkey-Jones is Vice Provost for the School of Creative Arts, Entertainment, and Design at Dallas College, where she leads academic strategy, programming, and industry partnerships for the arts across seven campuses. A former principal, executive director, nonprofit founder, and arts commissioner, she brings deep cross-sector experience to her work at the intersection of arts, education, workforce, and civic engagement. Known for using the arts as a tool for transformation, she has built strong partnerships that expand access to arts education and creative careers. Recognized by *Women We Admire* as a 2025 Top Woman Leader, she serves on several local and national boards, is active in the DCEO Emerging Women's Leadership Network, and is a graduate of Engage Dallas. Ahava is a 2023 graduate of the Business Council for the Arts Leadership Arts Institute and a member of the 51st class of Leadership Dallas. Her leadership is grounded in building inclusive pathways that allow creativity and communities to thrive. *Nominated by Jorge Baldor, Founder, Latino Arts Project, Frankie Garcia, Owner, FGIII Fine Arts Productions and Liz Scruggs, Associate Deputy Chief, Marketing and Communications, Dallas College.*

New Arts Initiative – Mullen and Mullen Injury Law

For more than 40 years, Mullen & Mullen Injury Law has protected the rights of injured North Texans while investing in the cultural life of the region. In 2024, the firm launched the Mullen & Mullen Music Project to champion independent artists and local venues. Its signature program, JAMBALOO, is a weeklong celebration of live music that brings free concerts to neighborhoods across DFW, often giving musicians access to venues they might not otherwise play. The project pays artists fairly, covers venue costs, and removes financial barriers—creating opportunities where none existed. In partnership with, and through direct financial support to, the Dallas Music Office, Mullen & Mullen has more than doubled the organization's annual budget. By filling gaps for those without access to nonprofit funding, the Mullen & Mullen Music Project offers a powerful, replicable model for how private sector investment can directly strengthen the arts. Guided by the belief that a strong arts community makes for a stronger North Texas, the firm is helping ensure music, culture, and connection continue to thrive across the region. *Nominated by Kristina Kirkenaer-Hart, Director of Cultural Tourism, Visit Dallas.*

Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. Richard C. Benson, President Emeritus, The University of Texas at Dallas

Dr. Richard C. Benson, who retired earlier this month after serving as president of The University of Texas at Dallas since 2016, transformed the university and elevated the role of the arts in higher education. An engineer by training and a lifelong advocate for the arts, his passion began as a trumpet

player at Princeton and continued throughout his career. At UT Dallas, he pledged to put the “A” for Arts into the university’s celebrated STEM and Management disciplines, making it a true STEAM institution. During his tenure, he led the creation of the Edith and Peter O'Donnell Jr. Athenaeum, a 12-acre cultural district anchored by the Crow Museum of Asian Art with a dedicated gallery for the Dallas Museum of Art. Dr. Benson embraced the formation of the Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, combining traditional disciplines with cutting-edge programs in the digital arts. These initiatives have positioned UT Dallas as a national leader in creative education and cultural engagement. Dr. Benson’s vision reflects his belief that the arts bring joy, inspiration, and a sense of permanence equal to scientific discovery. His leadership expanded access to world-class arts and culture for students and the North Texas community, ensuring the arts remain central to the university’s mission for generations to come. *Nominated by Dr. Nils Roemer, Dean, Harry W. Bass School of Arts and Humanities, University of Texas at Dallas.*

2025 Obelisk Awards Sponsorships and Underwriting

Sponsorships and underwriting opportunities provide unique ways for businesses, organizations, and individuals to recognize the 2025 Obelisk Award winners’ accomplishments and gain valuable brand recognition among the event’s attendees.

Sponsorship packages include marketing recognition, outdoor billboard placement, a VIP Art Experience, complimentary valet parking for all attendees, and invitations to the exclusive Obelisk Awards Patron Party on October 8th. Sponsorship details can be found at <https://ntbca.org/obelisk-sponsorships/>

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

2025 Obelisk Awards Sponsors to date include:

Co-Presenting Sponsors – Capital One and Corgan

Connoisseur Sponsors – Oncor and Nancy Nasher + David Haemisegger

Enthusiast Sponsor – NorthPark Center, Fauxcades, and University of Texas at Dallas – Harry W. Bass School of the Arts

Collector Sponsor – Neiman Marcus Group

Hospitality Sponsor– JW Marriott Dallas Arts District and Encore

Award Sponsor – HALL Group

Media Sponsor – Patron

Patron Party Sponsor – Bernbaum Magadini Architects

Aficionado Sponsors –

Fisher and Phillips LLP, Frost Bank, HALL Group

Catalyst Sponsors –

1820 Productions Inc., ALA, LLC, Baker Botts, LLC, Beck Group, BGSF, Bourland Octave Management, LLC, Children's Health, Comerica, Connective Agency, Duane Morris, LLP, Haynes and Boone, LLP, Holland & Knight Foundation, Jackson Walker, LLP, Jones Day, Lennox International, Maintenance of America, Cathryn McClellan, McGrath Family Charitable Trust, Parkland Health, Pariveda, Powell Coleman & Arnold, LLP, Simmons Bank, SMU Meadows School of the Arts, Troutman Pepper Locke, The University of North Texas, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Vinson & Elkins, LLP/ Katherine Frank, Kathleen J. Wu

Underwriting support provided by:

Outdoor Sponsor – Albert Outdoor Advertising

Graphics Sponsor – NorthPark Center

Event Sponsor – Capital One

Photography and Video Sponsor – JerSean Golatt

Valet Sponsor – Park Place

Photo Experience Sponsor – Fauxcades

Each honoree of the 2025 Obelisk Award receives an original and one-of-a-kind artwork in glass created by Dallas artist [Simon Waranch](#).

About Business Council for the Arts

Since its founding in 1988 by real estate 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 2007, 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 ArtWorks, a multifaceted initiative that brings professional, rotating art installations to both corporate and public spaces. ArtWorks enhances employee wellness, fosters team building and creativity, cultivates community, and transforms vacant spaces into vibrant, welcoming destinations that reflect the heart of North Texas. 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 www.ntbca.org.

###

CONTACT:

Stacie Adams

214.552.6414

stacie.adams@ntbca.org