BEST BUSINESSES
PARTNERING WITH THE ARTS
IN AMERICA
2015
THE BCA 10:
BEST BUSINESSES PARTNERING
WITH THE ARTS IN AMERICA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

The BCA 10
Ameriprise Financial Minneapolis, MN
AutoZone Memphis, TN
BNY Mellon New York, NY
Corning Incorporated Corning, NY
GE’s FirstBuild Louisville, KY
NV Energy and the NV Energy Foundation Reno, NV
Prospective Inc. Reston, VA
Spec’s Wines, Spirits & Finer Foods Houston, TX
The Trust Company of Kansas Wichita, KS
U.S. Bank Minneapolis, MN

BCA Hall of Fame Award
Duke Energy Charlotte, NC

BCA Leadership Award
Jorge M. Pérez, Chairman, The Related Group, Miami, FL
“In our increasingly mechanized and computerized world, the arts afford a measure of consolation and reassurance to our individuality, a measure of beauty and human emotion that can reach and move most men. They are indispensible to the achievement of our great underlying concern for the individual, for the fullest development of the potential hidden in every human being.”

David Rockefeller, Founding Address, Business Committee for the Arts, Inc., September 20, 1966
“At Ameriprise Financial, we celebrate the arts as a medium that brings people together and enables us to see the world through the lens of diverse cultures and experiences. We support programs, exhibitions, and artists that enrich our communities, inspire new ways of thinking, and share the beauty of art with people from all walks of life.”

—BRIAN PIETSCH, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL

Ameriprise Financial, a pioneer in financial planning and retirement advice, is a champion of arts education and access. In its 10 years as an independent company, Ameriprise has granted more than $8 million in support of programs that open and encourage engagement in the arts to diverse audiences across the United States.

The impact of these contributions is evident in communities like Washington, DC. With Leadership Support from Ameriprise Financial, Shakespeare Theatre Company’s Free For All has welcomed more than 100,000 patrons of all ages to a Shakespeare show free of charge. Now in its 25th year, Free for All has reached more than 650,000 community members who without this program may have never experienced a live performance. Generous support from Ameriprise has also funded Shakespeare Theatre Company’s educational programs in the classroom and on stage, which are open to students of all ages.

Closer to home for many of its employees, Ameriprise supports numerous arts initiatives in the Minneapolis area, where the company is headquartered. With help from strategic grants, arts organizations including the Guthrie Theater, the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Stages Theater, and the Pillsbury Community Theater are able to open their doors to local residents and continue a rich tradition and celebration of the arts in Minnesota.

In addition to corporate philanthropic support, Ameriprise encourages its employees and financial advisors to follow their passions and engage with the arts in their local communities. The company promotes volunteer opportunities and provides paid time off for employees to lend time to their favorite nonprofits. It also provides a financial match for employee and advisor charitable donations, through which the company gave more than $400,000 to arts programs in 2014.

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A
UTOZONE, THE LEADING RETAILER AND A LEADING
distributor of automotive replacement parts and accessories
in the United States, views a thriving arts community as a
key component to creating and sustaining an economically
strong, authentic, and dynamic community. The company supports
arts and culture initiatives through unique funding programs, civic
leadership, and employee engagement.

In AutoZone’s hometown of Memphis, TN, the company provides
annual funding to ArtsMemphis, a United Arts Fund, and dozens
of local arts and culture organizations through a grant program
called ArtsZone. The program, which is administered by ArtsMemphis,
helps support emerging arts programs and events, including
Indie Memphis Film Festival; outreach and mentoring programs for
underserved youth, including the New Ballet Ensemble; accessible,
community-building endeavors, including the Levitt Shell Music
Series; and minority arts growth, including the Hattiloo Theatre.

In 2014, AutoZone distributed more than $400,000 in funding to
local arts groups. Memphis-based AutoZone employees are also
encouraged to donate to ArtsMemphis through a payroll deduction
program, which matches 100 percent of donations dollar-for-dollar.

In 2004, AutoZone founder J.R. “Pitt” Hyde III and former AutoZone
CEO Steve Odland spearheaded ArtsMemphis’s ambitious endowment
campaign, Memphis for the Arts (MFTA). AutoZone made the lead gift and
encouraged other businesses to get involved. MFTA generated more than
$27.2 million and enhanced the profile of the Memphis arts community.

In addition, in 2001, AutoZone donated 226 works collected by Pitt
Hyde to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. The AutoZone Collection
includes a selection of artists and artisans from the Mid-South.

AutoZone’s creative partnership with the arts is also evidenced by
its affiliation with Opera Memphis. The company supports Opera
Memphis’ 30 Days of Opera, a public-outreach initiative that aims to
integrate opera into everyday life. Since its launch in 2012, 30 Days
of Opera has reached more than 50,000 people at more than 80
locations in the Greater Memphis region. In both 2013 and 2014,
AutoZone commissioned Opera Memphis to create two iterations of
"AutoZone: The Opera" for the company’s national conference. The opera
featured a cast of characters lamenting their car problems—and
ultimately receiving the outstanding AutoZone customer service
for which the company is known. By partnering with the arts,
AutoZone reinforced the strong corporate culture and commitment
to customer satisfaction in a creative and memorable way.

"Even as AutoZone has evolved over the last 36 years, we’ve maintained a steadfast
commitment to our hometown of Memphis, TN. Leadership and active participation
in our region’s arts and culture are essential to community engagement and
growth. In partnership with ArtsMemphis, ArtsZone provides funding for
dozens of emerging and established arts initiatives and events; youth outreach
and mentoring programs for underserved youth; accessible, community-building
devotees; and minority arts growth."

—BILL RHODES, CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT, AND CEO, CUSTOMER SATISFACTION, AUTOZONE
“BNY Mellon has supported and partnered with leading arts and culture institutions globally throughout our 230-year history. We know that a strong arts and culture scene attracts the brightest minds and talents and inspires ingenuity and diversity of ideas. And we all benefit from its capacity to educate, enrich, and sustain a vibrant, creative society.”

—GERALD L. HASSELL  CHAIRMAN AND CEO, BNY MELLON

In addition, BNY Mellon supports Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation’s BNY Mellon Jazz Living Legacy Award. Established by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in 1994, the Living Legacy Jazz Award honors living American jazz masters who have contributed to the development and perpetuation of the jazz legacy in the mid-Atlantic region.

BNY Mellon’s inspiring corporate art collection serves to enhance the workplace, stimulate creativity, and reinforce the company’s longstanding support for the arts. Through an active loan program with museums and galleries around the world, the collection creates engaging visibility and strategic opportunities to connect with clients and the public. In recent years, the company has participated in more than 100 free loan exhibitions with more than 60 different institutions, including museums and universities.

BNY Mellon’s global corporate philanthropy program enables positive change through philanthropic donations, social investments, and employees’ skills and resources. Through BNY Mellon’s Community Partnership program, the company provides two days of paid volunteer time annually for eligible BNY Mellon employees and donates $20 per hour of volunteer time. BNY Mellon also matches 50 percent of employee donations. In 2014, BNY Mellon and its employees volunteered more than 127,000 hours and donated more than $38 million.
CORNING INCORPORATED, ONE OF THE WORLD’S FOREMOST specialty glass companies, has supported the arts throughout its corporate history. The company was established (as Corning Glass Works) in 1851. Today, its headquarters in Corning, NY, features 11 courtyards showcasing specially commissioned glass sculptures.

In 1951, the company celebrated its centennial by founding The Corning Museum of Glass. Corning Incorporated’s continuous investment in The Corning Museum of Glass has allowed the museum to grow to become the world’s largest collection of glass, attracting more than 420,000 visitors annually. A recent $64 million contribution from Corning Incorporated led to a new Contemporary Art + Design Wing for the museum, which opened in March 2015. The new wing includes a 26,000-square-foot contemporary art gallery building, the largest space anywhere dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art in glass. Supporting the museum provides Corning Incorporated with exceptional opportunities to promote past, present, and future achievements with glass and reward its employees with complimentary museum memberships.

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In September 2014, Corning Incorporated and The Corning Museum of Glass launched a new artist residency program, which supports artists interested in adapting specialty glass materials. Corning Incorporated provides artists with access to specialty glass, as well as access to staff with technical expertise in glass formulation, melting, and forming. The museum provides access to its extensive resources, including its glassmaking facilities and collection. The resident artists work closely with the museum’s glassmakers, curators, and other staff to better understand glass and its historic and artistic contexts.

Corning Incorporated has helped transform the greater Corning area into a world-class arts destination. Through a robust grant program and dollar-for-dollar employee matches, Corning Incorporated Foundation, which was chartered in 1952, provides targeted support for innovative initiatives that advance and sustain arts programs. Since the Foundation’s establishment, $154 million in grants have been distributed. In 2013, the corporation gave $33.9 million to arts programs, 70 percent of the company’s total giving for the year. Corning Incorporated’s regional contributions also include multi-million dollar support for The Rockwell Museum of Art, new public green spaces, the conversion of an old movie theater into a new performing arts center, and more. The company was also instrumental in helping to create a Regional Cultural Development Plan aimed at enhancing the quality of artistic and cultural life in the area in which its employees live and work.

“We support art and culture institutions as part of our effort to make our communities better places to live and work. We believe it enhances the quality of life for our employees and neighbors, increases the vitality of the communities, and often strengthens economic health. As a company dedicated to life-changing innovation, we also know that creativity is a synergistic process. We all benefit from organizations that stimulate our senses, inspire our minds, and encourage our curiosity.”

- WENDELL P. WEEKS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CORNING INCORPORATED
GE’s FirstBuild Louisville, KY Nominated by IDEAS xLab

"With a team that is rooted in engineering and manufacturing, FirstBuild is all about bringing new perspectives into product design. Our artist in residence, Jakub Szczesny, helped us create a new product, the Louisville Table that would not have been possible without his radically different perspective when it came to appliance design and manufacturing."

-NATARAJAN VENKATKRISHNAN DIRECTOR, GE’S FIRSTBUILD

With the belief that co-creation will help build the next generation of home appliances, in 2014, GE Appliances and Local Motors partnered to create GE’s FirstBuild. Working out of a low-volume manufacturing facility in Louisville, KY, FirstBuild’s team engages with a community of industrial designers, engineers, early adopters, and artists to address some of the toughest engineering challenges.

For example, during FirstBuild’s Great American Art Hack weekend, artists, community members, and employees disassembled GE washers and dryers to create art installations. The project brought together a group of Louisville-based artists, engineers, and makers to work cohesively to create pieces of art that are showcased throughout the micro-factory. As host and co-sponsor of the event, FirstBuild made in-kind contributions of more than $6,000 in materials, equipment, and staff time.

Soon after FirstBuild’s initiation, the company partnered with IDEAS xLab, a catalytic organization of artists and arts professionals activating a creative workforce, on the XLerateArt initiative, which helps corporations meet business and operational goals by placing artists in corporate work spaces. XLerateArt, the result of a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant, is a collaborative effort between IDEAS xLab and Residency Unlimited in Brooklyn, NY.

GE’s FirstBuild was the first Louisville-based company to formally participate in XLerateArt’s innovative approach to business. The company has supported the program by providing work space, equipment, training, and employee assistance to enable artists to create works of art, free-of-charge. The artist-in-residence program resulted in a new social appliance concept, the Louisville Table, which is currently being prototyped. FirstBuild also maintains a student worker program through which they hire artists.

In addition to hiring and promoting artists, GE’s FirstBuild regularly hosts art shows and exhibit opening receptions. IDEAS xLab commissions local artists to exhibit contemporary artwork in the company’s manufacturing facility. FirstBuild also hosts and promotes artist talks, including MIX+PIVOT (a monthly artist-entrepreneur networking event) and XLerateART artist talks, and has partnered on events throughout the city.

For GE’s FirstBuild, engaging with artists has spurred creative thinking while generating a dialogue among employees about open-source development and appliance co-creation and building ties to the community. FirstBuild believes its partnership with the arts will not only expand the opportunities for artists in America, but will also pioneer the future of work by becoming a new model for inventing, building, and bringing the next generation of major appliances to the market with the help of artists’ ingenuity.
As an electric and gas utility company, NV Energy’s success is directly linked to communities that thrive and grow. The company believes in the power of the arts to help support communities where people want to live, work, and visit. Its longstanding philosophy of investing in the arts to create successful communities and enhance economic development is evidenced statewide.

Community support has been a part of NV Energy’s company culture for more than 100 years. In 1987, NV Energy established the NV Energy Foundation. In the past 10 years alone, the foundation has committed more than $3.4 million to arts and culture initiatives and organizations in urban and rural Nevada, including the Metro Arts Council of Southern Nevada; the Smith Center for the Performing Arts; and the month-long Artown festival in Reno, which presents more than 500 free or low-cost arts and culture events in July.

NV Energy supports programs that encourage Nevada’s youth to engage with the arts. When the Nevada Arts Council’s budget was significantly decreased, for example, NV Energy provided critical support for “Powering Up Poetry,” an initiative to ensure that all high-school aged students in Nevada could participate in the Poetry Out Loud Program and provide workshops led by published poets for students at schools in rural communities. NV Energy also helped support the Sierra Arts Foundation’s efforts to enable young people convicted of unlawful tagging to create murals in public spaces with a high tagging rate.

In Reno, NV Energy promotes the artistic efforts of community youth, local artists, and employees by hosting art shows. Winners of employee art shows have had their artwork displayed at the Nevada Museum of Art.

As the lead sponsor of the Nevada Museum of Art membership program, NV Energy supplies employee volunteers for art show openings and membership cultivation events. In addition, in 2004, VSA arts of Nevada, an affiliate of the international organization on arts and disability, moved its historic building from an inaccessible location in south Reno to downtown. NV Energy crews lifted power lines to allow safe passage for the movers, and the NV Energy Foundation provided a $10,000 grant to assist with the move. NV Energy employees who demonstrate an outstanding level of commitment to volunteerism or work related initiatives are often offered complimentary tickets to arts events. Employees also receive discounts to cultural events and institutions as a result of company sponsorships.

"NV Energy believes the arts are essential to the quality of life for all Nevadans wherever they live. The arts build vibrant communities—whether large or small, urban or rural. Not only are the arts good for communities, they are good for business and are critical to economic diversification, tourism, and educational reform strategies."

—Paul Caudill, President and CEO, NV Energy; Chairman, NV Energy Foundation
For Joe Ritchey’s Prospective Inc., a one-person commercial real estate brokerage and consulting firm in Reston, VA, having a thriving local arts scene is an essential part of the company’s success and the city’s growth. Not only does Ritchey’s Prospective Inc. lease office space in Reston Town Center, but Prospective Inc. has been instrumental in transforming Reston Town Center into a vibrant public space with outdoor concerts and public art.

In 2007, Ritchey helped form the Initiative for Public Art - Reston (IPAR), a nonprofit group committed to public art in Reston, and he currently serves as President and Board Chair. In October 2008, the group hosted a public art “knowledge exchange” with Americans for the Arts’ Public Art Network, and three months later Reston became the first non-incorporated jurisdiction in the United States to complete a public art master plan, which includes an arts education component. Artists educate and engage local students in the creative process at all stages of public art development—design, fundraising, production, installation, and unveiling.

Since 2000, Ritchey, through Prospective Inc. and through personal giving, has donated more than $1.1 million to arts-related organizations, as well as in-kind donations. In 2013, 70 percent of the company’s philanthropic support was allocated to the arts. Ritchey and Prospective Inc. have played a leading role in raising more than $100,000 annually for the Arts Council of Fairfax County, where he has served as Board Chair. The company has also provided crucial funds to Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, the International Children’s Festival, Fairfax County libraries, and others.

Ritchey claims that Prospective Inc.’s support of the arts has resulted in an outstanding return on investment. The office vacancy rate in Reston Town Center is 1 percent in a region where the average vacancy is 16 percent. However, the return on investment in the arts is not just financial. The thousands of people that enjoy Reston Town Center’s vibrant artistic offerings provide a daily testimonial to the positive impact the arts can have on a community’s quality of life.

“I believe that a community’s economic vitality and quality of life are directly proportionate to its commitment to and investment in arts and culture. Frequently under-recognized but equally important is the impact of the arts on demand for office, retail, and residential real estate, resulting in higher valuations of commercial and residential properties and increased tax revenues to local, county, and state government. Based upon my experience leasing the office component of Reston Town Center, I know that investment in the arts provides a powerful economic return.”

-Joe Ritchey, Principal, Prospective Inc.
JOHN AND LINDY RYDMAN, WHO RUN SPEC'S WINES, SPIRITS & Finer Foods with their daughter Lisa, believe their business and industry should be driven by community responsibility. Music is an integral part of the Rydmans' lives—when they met, they were both music majors at the University of North Texas in Denton—and they have translated that passion into supporting the arts.

In 1996, the Rydmans established the Spec's Charitable Foundation as a tribute to Lindy's parents, who founded Spec's in 1962. The Spec's Charitable Foundation has consistently supported the arts since then, contributing in excess of $5 million to the arts.

Spec's is the single largest corporate donor to the Houston Symphony, with contributions of at least $250,000 annually and more than $3 million in total since 1996. In addition to financial support, Spec's provides in-kind gifts to the Symphony and hosts an annual wine industry fundraiser with a tasting and formal dinner. The fundraiser, Vintage Virtuoso, supports the Symphony's education and community programs, and has raised more than $2.25 million since its inception. Spec's works closely with many of its suppliers and distributors to help stage the event.

The company offers employees free tickets to the Spec's Charitable Foundation Salute to Educators Concert at the Houston Symphony. This annual event invites teachers and their guests to attend a symphony concert free-of-charge. In addition, the company established a Spec's Charitable Foundation Award for Excellence in Music Education. Awarded to an active teacher who has brought recognition and distinction to his or her school's music program, the accolade draws attention to the important work of music educators.

In addition to the Houston Symphony, recent beneficiaries have included the Alley Theatre (Houston), Art League Houston, the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas, the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, Houston Museum of African American Culture, Kinderplatz of Fine Arts, the Symphony League of Fort Worth, and the Women's Chorus of Dallas.

Spec's is also the lifetime underwriter of the One O’Clock Lab Band, the renowned jazz ensemble at University of North Texas in Denton (UNT). In 2012, Spec’s hosted “UNT Day” at its Dallas store. This concert featured performances by outstanding ensembles from the UNT music school, including the Tuba Ensemble, Steel Drum Band, and the One O’Clock Lab Band.

“We support education in many forms, and we believe, while often overlooked, fine arts is an important part of a well-rounded education.”

- JOHN AND LINDY RYDMAN, OWNERS, SPEC’S WINES, SPIRITS & FINER FOODS
The Trust Company of Kansas, Wichita, KS  Nominated by Arts Council of Wichita

“The arts do more than just brighten our daily lives; they also truly support our communities. To thrive, creativity needs support! The Trust Company of Kansas is honored to support the arts and thrilled with the connections our involvement presents us to others who care about our communities’ future.”

- STEPHEN A. ENGLISH, CHAIRMAN & CEO, THE TRUST COMPANY OF KANSAS

The Trust Company of Kansas (TCK), an employee-owned trust and investment management company, has donated time, money, and resources to support local arts organizations in Kansas, and has played an integral role in building strategic partnerships to help these organizations thrive. Between 2004 and 2013, the company provided $878,000 to approximately 50 arts organizations and artists throughout the state.

In addition to providing financial support, in 2004 TCK created a communications program called Wichita: Supporting The Arts, which encourages citizens, businesses, and tourists to support local, nonprofit arts organizations in Wichita, where the company is based, as well as surrounding areas. Visitors to the program’s website, SupportingtheArts.com, can view upcoming performances, exhibits, and community events, and find information on organizations’ in-kind, financial, and volunteer needs.

TCK’s philanthropic support of the arts totaled approximately $140,000 in 2014, representing 80–85 percent of the company’s overall charitable giving. In addition, the company estimates that roughly 95 percent of the company’s marketing efforts are affiliated with the arts, including hosting client socials and dinners at art venues; advertising in playbills; and sponsoring art shows, performances, and exhibits in the communities where TCK employees live and work.

Years of careful acquisitions have created a substantial corporate art collection. Many diverse mediums and techniques add sprinklings of color and a flavor of Midwestern artistic talent throughout each TCK office. This makes for a productive and beautiful work environment that inspires clients and other visitors to join TCK in supporting the arts.

Many of the company’s staff members serve on boards for arts organizations, including TCK President Martha L. Linsner. As Development Chair for the Arts Council of Wichita, Linsner helped the Council increase its contributed revenue more than six fold since 2011. The Arts Council has used this additional revenue to provide support for artists, scholarships for youth to attend art classes, and a new art festival in Wichita. The funds have also enabled the Arts Council to help support a local study that will guide future decisions about improvements to performing arts facilities in Wichita.

Linsner was also an integral player in the creation of the first annual Wichita Art Day of Giving (ArtDOG) in February 2014, and TCK supported the day with more than $5,000 of matching support to various arts organizations. The event raised nearly $550,000 for Wichita’s nonprofit arts community.

Photos (opposite page, clockwise from top left) TCK sponsors an annual Sculpture WalkAbout in Wichita. This sculpture, created from auto collision debris, was created by Greg Johnson, a former auto collision repairman. Photo by Angela Cato. • TCK’s CEO Steve English serves on the Wichita State University (WSU) Fine Arts Advisory Board. Here, WSU dancers perform at the Wichita Museum of Art during the See Miró Go festivities. Photo by The Wichita Eagle. • Opera star Samuel Ramey stands in front of the Dale Chihuly installation at the Wichita Art Museum. Ramey’s performance with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra was sponsored by TCK. Photo by Fernando Salazar – The Wichita Eagle. • TCK staff members serve on the board of directors at Music Theatre of Wichita and are supportive of productions such as Mary Poppins. Photo by Christopher Clark. • “Mr. Biggles,” a large clay squirrel planter that greets visitors to The Downing Children’s Garden, was created by artist Conrad Snider and sponsored by TCK.

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The Trust Company of Kansas

Wichita, KS

Nominated by Arts Council of Wichita

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The Trust Company of Kansas

Wichita, KS

Nominated by Arts Council of Wichita
“Support for the arts has many benefits for artists and audiences, such as providing exposure to cultural diversity, promoting self-expression, initiating creative problem solving, building economic prosperity, and enhancing quality of life. The numerous partnerships between businesses and arts organizations serve to foster civic pride and create sustainable cultural institutions, making our communities better places for everyone to live, work, and play.”

— RICHARD K. DAVIS, CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, U.S. BANK

Since 2010, U.S. Bank has awarded more than $15 million to the arts in the form of U.S. Bank Foundation grants and, in 2014 alone, nearly $4 million of the Foundation’s annual financial contributions were directed toward the arts. The Foundation’s arts and culture grants are primarily awarded to organizations that use the arts to help address community concerns. The company also provides meeting space and contributes cash sponsorships to help support organizations’ fundraising efforts.

In 2013, Business for Culture & the Arts named U.S. Bank and the U.S. Bank Foundation the largest corporate supporter of arts and culture in Oregon. In 2014, U.S. Bank made a $1 million gift to Portland Center Stage, allowing one of the city’s premier theater organizations to pay off debt related to the restoration and renovation of its historic building. The gift was described by Portland Center Stage’s Board Chair as “the single most transformative event possible for the organization.”

For more than a decade, U.S. Bank has funded the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts’ (CBCA) Economic Activity Study. The bank also supports CBCA’s Leadership Arts program which educates, inspires, and equips professionals from all sectors to be civically engaged leaders through board service.

U.S. Bank encourages its employees to serve on nonprofit boards by maintaining an employee match program that incentivizes board participation and provides a monetary donation for hours volunteered. The company also considers employee involvement opportunities when evaluating contribution requests, and provides discounts or free tickets to sponsored arts events as a reward for employees and as a relationship building tool for clients.

In Denver, the company has long supported ArtReach, which ensures people of all ages who struggle with physical, mental, behavioral, or severe economic challenges have an opportunity to experience arts and culture. Additionally, U.S. Bank partners with nonprofit organizations to drive development by helping to finance affordable housing for artists and create new art workspaces.

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For more than a decade, U.S. Bank has funded the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts’ (CBCA) Economic Activity Study. The bank also supports CBCA’s Leadership Arts program which educates, inspires, and equips professionals from all sectors to be civically engaged leaders through board service.

U.S. Bank encourages its employees to serve on nonprofit boards by maintaining an employee match program that incentivizes board participation and provides a monetary donation for hours volunteered. The company also considers employee involvement opportunities when evaluating contribution requests, and provides discounts or free tickets to sponsored arts events as a reward for employees and as a relationship building tool for clients.

U.S. BANK, THE FIFTH LARGEST COMMERCIAL BANK IN the United States, believes that a vibrant arts community attracts talented people and companies. For more than 150 years, the bank has provided funds to help organizations throughout the United States build audiences for the arts, particularly among underserved communities.

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For more than 100 years, Duke Energy, the largest electric power holding company in the United States, has acted with the belief that providing access to and building an appreciation for the arts can have a powerful impact on the communities it serves.

As a true testament to Duke Energy’s appreciation of the arts, in 2010 the company moved its headquarters to the Levine Center for the Arts complex, one of Charlotte’s key cultural destinations. Duke Energy also contributed $10 million to the $83 million endowment to fund the operations of Levine Center resident groups and Discovery Place. In addition, Duke Energy’s support of The Mint Museum of Craft + Design resulted in the creation of the Duke Energy gallery at the museum.

In 2009, Duke Energy was recognized by Americans for the Arts as a BCA 10 honoree. That year, the company forged a partnership with the Charlotte Symphony (CSO) and Opera Carolina to create The Duke Energy Power of Music Opera/Symphony Partnership with a gift of $150,000. The grant enabled Opera Carolina and the CSO to continue a partnership that has provided live music for opera productions in Charlotte for more than 60 years.

In 2013, when arts organizations in Charlotte were experiencing a significant decline in funding support, the Duke Energy Foundation committed $10 million to the Foundation for the Carolinas’ THRIVE Fund, which was established to provide financial stability for Charlotte’s arts and culture sector.

In Raleigh, Duke Energy has naming rights for the Duke Energy Performing Arts Center, and in recent years, has annually provided more than $500,000 in grants to the North Carolina Symphony, Carolina Ballet, North Carolina Opera, North Carolina Theatre, and Pinecone. In Florida, the company has supported arts-infused educational programs for more than 20 years at the Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. This year marks more than $2 million in cumulative giving to the performing arts center. In Cincinnati, Duke Energy is the title sponsor of the Duke Energy Children’s Museum, which has consistently ranked in the top 10 children’s museums in the world.

Working under the banner “Duke Energy In Action,” Duke Energy employees and retirees regularly volunteer for charitable projects and participate in the company’s contribution matching program. The company also involves its employees in its workplace giving campaigns. For more than 20 years, Duke Energy has ranked among the top 10 ArtsWave campaign contributors in the Greater Cincinnati area.

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The company is committed to supporting the vitality of the communities we serve. That includes introducing our young people to the arts at an early age—study after study shows that children benefit immensely from exposure to the arts. Investing in the arts makes good sense, for our business and for our communities.”

—LYNN GOOD, VICE CHAIR AND CEO, DUKE ENERGY
Born in Argentina to Cuban parents, Jorge M. Pérez, Chairman of The Related Group, immigrated to Miami in 1968. In 1979, after graduating from Long Island University’s C.W. Post Campus and earning a master’s degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan, Pérez co-founded a real estate firm, The Related Group, with developer Stephen Ross.

For more than 30 years, The Related Group has been changing South Florida’s skyline, creating vibrant new ways to live in dynamic, emerging neighborhoods. The Related Group partners with world-renowned architects, designers, and artists to create residential developments that are recognized as urban landmarks. For example, the company’s art wall project on the Riverwalk features works of art that are not only extensions of The Related Group’s buildings, but also the community’s landscapes. The talents of Rem Koolhaas, Carlos Ott, Yabu Pushelberg, Karim Rashid, David Rockwell, Philippe Starck, and many others have served as collaborators and inspirations behind The Related Group properties. The company even has an Art Director on staff with art museum and art foundation experience.

Pérez’s passion for vibrant urban communities is reflected not only in his real estate projects, but also in his involvements in South Florida’s arts and culture affairs. In 2011, the Miami Art Museum agreed to rename itself the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) after Pérez pledged $40 million in cash and donated a substantial collection of Latin American artwork to the museum. A knowledgeable art collector, Jorge M. Pérez is a former board member of the National Endowment for the Arts and serves on the board of PAMM. He is past chair and currently a member of the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council.

TIME magazine has named Pérez one of the top 25 most influential Hispanics in the United States, and he has made the cover of Forbes magazine twice. Pérez and his wife Darlene are active philanthropists, supporting a broad range of artistic, museum-related, and medical causes across the South Florida area. The Jorge M. Pérez Architecture Center at the University of Miami was named after him. He has also committed to The Giving Pledge, a campaign founded by Bill Gates, agreeing to donate 50 percent of his wealth to philanthropy.

"For me, art is a form of expression and an exchange of cultures and ideas. It enriches my life, and my vision is to provide that experience for the community. The Related Group’s philosophy is to support artists and integrate their works into our projects as well as to partner with leading arts organizations in the hopes of creating inspirational spaces and promoting Miami as a thriving cultural epicenter."
Invested in powerful performances.

As a dedicated collector, supporter and advocate of the arts, BNY Mellon is honored to be named to the BCA 10 for 2015. From local arts programs throughout our many communities to the world’s premier art venues, we are a committed sponsor of creativity.

Bravo to our fellow BCA 10 honorees.

Inspiration. Imagination. Dedication.

That’s why we value the Arts.

At U.S. Bank, we are committed to making our communities better places to work and live. Our commitment means supporting the programs and organizations that enrich the quality of life for our neighbors. Because when our community succeeds, everyone wins.

U.S. Bank is proud to be a BCA 10 Honoree.
John and Lindy Rydman,

Thank you for your support of Catholic School Education and the Arts in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Congratulations on the 2015 BCA 10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts in America

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

The organizations of Pittsburgh’s Cultural District salute BNY Mellon for its valuable contributions to the arts in Pittsburgh and extend a hearty congratulations to BNY Mellon for being named a 2015 BCA 10 Honoree.
Duke Energy on its Business Committee for the Arts Hall of Fame Award 2015

Thank you for your incredible support of the Arts that make the Greater Cincinnati region an amazing place to live.

ArtsWave congratulates

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Initiative for Public Art — Reston, and Reston’s Founder, Robert E. Simon Jr., warmly congratulate

Chairman and IPAR Founder

Joe Ritchey
Recipient of the 2015 BCA 10 Award

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The University of North Texas congratulates Specs Wines, Spirits & Finer Foods, and thanks them for their decade-long underwriting of its famous College of Music One O’Clock Lab Band.

Proud Supporter of Americans for the Arts and BCA10

Congratulations to the 2015 BCA 10 honorees for their exceptional involvement with the ARTS that enriches the workplace, enhances education, and transforms communities.

Cincinnati Museum Center

Cincinnati Museum Center Congratulates Duke Energy and celebrates the millions of children, teachers and adults who have delighted in learning experiences made possible by Duke's support!

Visit us at cincymuseum.org.
Duke Energy Illuminates the Power of Art

The Mint Museum is extremely proud to recognize Duke Energy as the 2015 Business Committee for the Arts Hall of Fame Award recipient. Duke Energy has made a profound impact on the arts in Charlotte and beyond. We are grateful for their partnership and loyal support.


Congratulations to Jorge Pérez!

Michele Aka Perez

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Building vibrant Nevada communities — large, small, urban and rural, through support of the arts.

The arts are good business.

Congratulations to Jorge M. Pérez from the Pérez Art Museum Miami board of trustees and staff
The Corning Museum of Glass thanks Corning Incorporated for its remarkable support since 1951.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Related is proud to support Americans for the Arts and congratulates Jorge Perez on all of his many accomplishments.

Since 1972 we have been fortunate to make substantial contributions to the landscapes of some of the world’s greatest cities. Whether we’re engaged in development, property management, affordable housing preservation or fund management, we approach each endeavor with a commitment to excellence that has become our hallmark. We also take enormous pride in improving the vitality and quality of life in our communities and in supporting organizations undertaking important work.
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Steve English

on the BCA 10 Award and for your exceptional support of the arts in Wichita

Wichita Art Museum
MEET HAZEL, THE COLTRANE OF CHEMISTRY

When businesses partner with the arts, everyone profits. Because the arts inspire new ideas, fresh thinking and creative collaboration. Just think, it’s exactly what you’re looking for from the people who work with you every day.

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And see how partnering with the Arts is good business.

Corning Incorporated is honored to be recognized by the Americans for the Arts and we congratulate all of the 2015 BCA 10 Award recipients.

The Houston Symphony is proud to have nominated Spec’s, a 2015 winner of the BCA 10, Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts in America.

For over 18 years, the Spec’s Charitable Foundation has helped support the Houston Symphony in promoting the arts and education in the community and those years of beautiful harmony have led to many more outreach programs across Texas.

Thank you Spec’s for all you have done, and a big congratulations from us all!

To learn more, visit corning.com
BCA 10 HONOREES 2005–2014

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The BCA Leadership Award recognizes a business executive who has demonstrated exceptional vision, leadership, and commitment in developing and encouraging business alliances with the arts throughout his/her career.

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The BCA Hall of Fame Award recognizes companies for their exceptional leadership, vision, and long-term commitment to supporting the arts. These companies have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since it was established in 1992.

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