



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BLANTON MUSEUM GALA CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, RAISES RECORD \$1 MILLION**

AUSTIN, TX: February 25, 2013— On Saturday, February 16, the Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin hosted its golden anniversary gala— an elegant evening celebrating the museum’s milestone fiftieth anniversary and the vital role that the Blanton plays in the cultural landscape of Austin and beyond. The black-tie event was attended by more than 550 supporters of the museum and raised a record \$1 million to provide essential funding in support of the Blanton’s wide range of programs for students, children, and adults.

Attendees from Texas and across the country included: **Ellen and Mark Bivins** (Amarillo); **Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, State Senator Kirk Watson**, esteemed former and current University of Texas presidents **Larry Faulkner** and **William Powers, Lynn and Tommie Meredith, Suzanne Deal Booth, Mary and Cab Gilbreath**, and **Bettye and Bill Nowlin** (Austin); **Cindy and Howard Rachofsky, Sally and Tom Dunning, Patty and James Huffines** and **Cindy and Armand Schwartz (Dallas)**; Museum Council Chair **Judy Tate and her husband Charles Tate**, museum namesake **Jack S. Blanton and wife Ginger, Kelli and Eddy Blanton, Eliza and Stuart Stedman, Ginni and Richard Mithoff** and **Susan Garwood and George Peterkin** (Houston); **Alessandra and Kurt Dolnier** (Watertown, CT); and **Jenny and Trey Laird (New York)**.

The evening began with a VIP cocktail reception in the Blanton’s Rapoport Atrium where guests mingled and enjoyed a special viewing of *Through the Eyes of Texas: Masterworks from Alumni Collections*— an exhibition of nearly 200 works from the collections of UT alums from across the country, and a focal point of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Afterwards, guests were escorted across the street to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum for a dinner by Chef Elmar Pramps of the Four Seasons Hotel Austin, and remarks. State Senator Kirk Watson opened the program by reading a Senate Resolution in honor of the Blanton's fifty years of service to the campus and community and was followed by President Bill Powers, Blanton director Simone Wicha, Blanton Museum Council Chair Judy Tate, and a special video by Electro- fish Films that highlighted the many ways in which the museum serves as a site for creativity and inspiration.

Following dinner, guests returned to the Blanton for *Gold a Go-Go*, the museum's first ever gala after-party. There, nearly 600 additional attendees danced until midnight to musical performances by **The Bluebonnets** featuring **Kathy Valentine (former member of The Go Go's)** with special guest **Charlie Sexton**, and **DJ Mel**.

### Event Details

Honorary Chairs:	Larry R. Faulkner Jessie Otto Hite
Austin Chairs:	Suzanne Deal Booth and David G. Booth Jeanne and Mickey Klein Mary and Howard Yancy
Houston Chairs:	Nancy and Jim Gordon
Dallas Chairs:	Patty and James Huffines Cindy and Howard Rachofsky
Fort Worth Chairs:	Kit and Charlie Moncrief
Amarillo Chairs:	Ellen and Mark Bivins
Marfa Chair:	Virginia Lebermann
Midland Chair:	Joan R. Baskin
San Antonio Chairs:	Barbara and Alan Dreeben
South Texas chairs:	Carol Lynn and Cullen Looney
Leadership:	Simone J. Wicha Director, Blanton Museum of Art  Judy Tate Chair, Blanton Museum Council
Event Details:	Cuisine by Chef Elmar Pramps, Four Seasons Hotel Austin Video Production by Electro-fish Films Flowers by Mandarin Flower Company

In-kind sponsors:           Kendra Scott  
                                  Grey Goose Vodka  
                                  Atomic Picnic  
                                  CSI Printing and Mailing  
                                  Ilios Lighting  
                                  Marquee Event Group  
                                  Strong Events

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#### **ABOUT THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART**

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 - 5, Saturday from 11-5, and Sunday from 1-5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13-21) \$5. Admission is free to members, and all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).