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AUSTIN, Texas – November 6, 2014 – University of Texas at Austin President Bill Powers will be honored at the Blanton Museum of Art’s 2015 Gala, Off the Wall. Taking place the evening of Saturday, February 7, 2015, the black-tie event will celebrate Powers’ distinguished legacy of leadership and commitment to the visual arts. The event will be followed by Art on the Edge, a festive gala after-party.

Over the past eight years, President Powers’ support and advocacy of the humanities has been transformative for the Blanton, ensuring that the visual arts play an integral role in the learning experiences of students on the UT Austin campus and beyond.

“We are thrilled to honor President Bill Powers at the 2015 Blanton Museum of Art Gala,” remarks Blanton Director Simone Wicha. “He has been a passionate champion of the arts and humanities on campus and understands the intrinsic value art brings to our lives. With his support, the Blanton is making art central to the educational experience of UT students and is further distinguishing itself as one of the best university art museums in the country.”

The Blanton Gala is a biennial event that raises essential support for the museum’s key programs. Proceeds from the event provide critical funding for the Blanton’s wide range of outstanding exhibitions, extensive educational programming for students, adults, and children of all ages, and collection care, and will further the development of arts and culture at UT, in Austin, and throughout the state.

UT alumni Judy and Charles Tate will serve as honorary chairs for the event. More than 70 works from their extraordinary collection of modern and contemporary Latin American art, the entirety of which was recently gifted to the Blanton, will be on view in the exhibition La línea continua. The gala will also serve as the first opportunity for patrons to view WITNESS: Art and Civil Rights in the
Sixties, an exhibition organized by the Brooklyn Museum and presented by the Blanton February 15 - May 10, 2015.

Leading the event are regional chairs Janet and Wilson Allen, Jeanne Klein, Kathleen Irvin Loughlin and Christopher Loughlin, and Andrea McWilliams (Austin); Ellen and Mark Bivins (Amarillo); Sally and Tom Dunning and Mike A. Myers (Dallas); Kit Moncrief (Fort Worth); Sylvie and Gary Crum and Leila and Walt Mischer (Houston); Jenny and Trey Laird and Darren Walker and David Beitzel (New York City).

Catering for the gala will be provided by the Four Seasons, and by Word of Mouth for the pre-event cocktail party. Mandarin Flower Co. will provide floral arrangements and CSI Printing will provide printing services.

**TABLES AND TICKETS**

*Tables for 10 are available at the following levels:*

- $100,000
- $50,000
- $25,000
- $15,000

Depending on availability, individual tickets will be sold at a later date.

*Art on the Edge*, the gala after-party, will take place from 8:30p.m.-midnight in the Blanton’s soaring Rapoport Atrium and art-filled galleries. This vibrant black-tie soiree will feature live music and dancing, including a performance by Memphis Train Revue and tunes from DJ Mel, as well as complimentary cocktails and light bites provided by Word of Mouth. Tickets are $100 per person and can be purchased at [blantonmuseum.org/gala_afterparty](http://blantonmuseum.org/gala_afterparty).

The Gala After-Party Host Committee is chaired by Kate Perez, and includes local tastemakers Alexandra Beck, Lindsey Gehrig, Shaady Ghadessy, Emily House, and Ryan Steed and Taylor Terkel.

**Gala Table Sponsor:**

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**Exclusive Media Sponsor for *Art on the Edge*, the gala after-party:**

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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, all current UT ID-holders. For additional information call (512) 471-7324 or visit www.blantonmuseum.org.

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