



Marie Jacinto
Director of Communications
713.581.6126 direct
832.628.9010 mobile

Houston Arts Alliance's Arts & Business Council of Greater Houston Announces "Board Leadership for the Arts" Spring Training Session

HOUSTON, TX (April 8, 2015) — Following its fall launch of Board Leadership for the Arts, Houston Arts Alliance's Arts & Business Council of Greater Houston announces its second installment of the successful program. This month's class of 20 local business professionals will gain valuable knowledge and demonstrate an understanding and commitment to upholding professional standards of nonprofit board governance within the arts.

In the fall of 2014, the Arts & Business Council launched an intensive board training program to engage business professionals in the arts by offering them training focused on the unique needs for volunteer board service with arts and cultural organizations. During the six-week class period, candidates are encouraged to attend the performances, events and exhibitions of participating organizations, which the candidates select themselves.

"The business community has responded very favorably to Houston's first-ever arts-focused board leadership training program," stated President + CEO Jonathon Glus. "Arts organizations need strong leaders who understand what makes nonprofit arts organizations unique compared to education or social service nonprofits. We are not only providing the training, but also the opportunity for participants to begin engaging with organizations immediately."

Class participants discuss a wide-range of topics including roles and responsibilities, board and committee structures, fundraising, board recruiting and the board-staff partnership. The final class session provides an opportunity for the participants to hold mini-interviews with nonprofit arts organizations, helping to jump-start the recruitment process and laying the groundwork for effective volunteer board leadership relationships.

"We are excited to offer this unique opportunity for the business community to see first-hand how arts organizations fulfill their missions within our community," said Arts & Business Council Manager Carolyn Hays. "We facilitate meaningful conversations between the candidates and local boards. This training program isn't a traditional classroom-style learning session; it is meant to be experiential."

Class participants range from young professionals to seasoned executives, with or without previous board leadership experience. The first class included business leaders from a wide range of companies, including EnerVest Operating, ReedSmith and LanzSwinney. The spring class includes candidates from CapitalOne, Walter P. Moore, Amegy Bank, Dynegy Inc. and ExxonMobil.

The curriculum for the training is provided through BoardSource®, the national leading resources organization for exceptional governance practice and is delivered by Arts & Business Council of Greater Houston Manager Carolyn Hays, a BoardSource recognized Certified Governance Trainer (CGT).

For more information, visit <http://www.houstonartsalliance.com/abc/programs/boardleadership/>

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