

## THE KOWALSKI FAMILY TO RECEIVE THE BRISCOE LEGACY AWARD

### *Seventh Annual Celebration Honors the Family's Contributions to the Community, Advocacy and Volunteerism*

**San Antonio, Texas –** (September 2024) The Briscoe Western Art Museum proudly announces that the Kowalski Family is the 2024 recipients of the museum's annual Dolph & Janey Briscoe Legacy Award. Established to celebrate the philanthropic spirit of the museum namesakes, the late Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr. and his wife Janey Slaughter Briscoe, the award recognizes generous contributions, advocacy, and volunteerism. The family will be honored at a celebration luncheon at the Jack Guenther Pavilion at the Briscoe on October 16.

The Kowalski family's legacy of generosity, leadership and dedication to the community extends well beyond business, making a lasting impact on education, arts and local initiatives. Led by the example set by the legendary soon-to-be centenarian Rosemary Kowalski, the Kowalski family and its multigenerational company, The RK Group, represent nearly eight decades of community service. Thanks to the efforts of Rosemary, Greg and Bekki Kowalski, Travis and Jamie Kowalski and Jennifer Kowalski Heinz, the Kowalski family has positively impacted San Antonio and South Texas through extensive personal and professional endeavors.

"It is impossible to imagine San Antonio without the hard work, commitment and support of the Kowalski family. Thanks to the example Rosemary continues to set, giving back to our community is second nature to the entire family. The Kowalski family embodies the core values the Briscoes demonstrated every day, and the Briscoe is grateful for the opportunity to spotlight a family that mirrors the Western values of resilience, hard work and of caring for your neighbors," said Liz Jackson, President and CEO of the Briscoe Western Art Museum. "Their combined efforts across San Antonio and South Texas truly reflect what the impact can be when people dedicate themselves to community service and philanthropy."

From modest beginnings as a neighborhood restaurant to global hospitality innovator with more than 1,200 staff, The RK Group has historically contributed in diverse ways to numerous cultural, charitable and civic initiatives. The company's philanthropic pillars, as well as the family's individual activities, consistently mirror a legacy of commitment to the highest standards of service at every level.

Through the indefatigable leadership that includes founder, Rosemary Kowalski, second-generation Greg and Bekki Kowalski and Mary Kowalski Carrington, and third-generation

Travis and Jamie Kowalski and Jennifer Kowalski Heinz, the company and the family remain committed to celebrating and enriching the community.

Previous Legacy Award honorees include the inaugural recipient, Debbie Montford (2017), as well as Gloria and Fully Clingman (2018) Valerie and Jack Guenther (2019), the family of Ruth McLean Bowman Bowers (2021), Judge Nelson and Tracy Wolff (2022) and Nancy Loeffler (2023).

2024 Legacy Award Luncheon chairs include Debbie Montford, Hollie Hendler Gilleland, Jane Macon, Nancy Loeffler, Nicole McClane and Sonya Medina Williams. The award itself will be presented to the Kowalski family by Barry Hendler, the Chairman of the Briscoe's Board of Directors.

### **Bringing the West to Life on the River Walk**

Founded in 2013, the Briscoe is an oasis of Western beauty just off the River Walk, with its McNutt Sculpture Garden and the museum grounds featuring 33 sculptures portraying various aspects of Western life. Inside the museum's beautifully restored historic home inside the former San Antonio Public Library building, the Briscoe's collection spans 14 galleries, with special exhibitions, events and a fantastic museum shop, providing art, culture, history and entertainment. Museum hours, parking and admission details are available [online](#).

**About [The Briscoe Western Art Museum](#):** *Preserving and presenting the art, history and culture of the American West through engaging exhibitions, educational programs and public events reflective of the region's rich traditions and shared heritage, the Briscoe Western Art Museum is located on the San Antonio River Walk at 210 W. Market Street in the beautifully restored 1930s former San Antonio Public Library building. Named in honor of the late Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe Jr. and his wife, Janey Slaughter Briscoe, the museum includes the three-story Jack Guenther Pavilion, used for event rentals and programs, and the outdoor McNutt Sculpture Garden. Follow the Briscoe on social media, @BriscoeMuseum.*