

For Immediate Release
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Art of Business Luncheon Series Expands to The Woodlands

Houston-Area Quarterly Series Showcasing Entrepreneurs and the Arts

Since early 2016, the Art of Business luncheon series in Houston has brought business people together each quarter, at the crossroads of culture and commerce, to share a scrumptious meal while one of them recounts his or her tale of arts-related endeavors. Next month, the series will debut in The Woodlands, on Wednesday, September 19, at Broken Barrel on Restaurant Row in Hughes Landing.

“In my career as an international tax lawyer and while serving on the boards of Arts organizations, I have encountered business people who are passionate about projects outside their day jobs. The luncheons are designed around them, so others can be inspired by their compelling personal stories,” says Meril Markley, creator of the series. Speakers have also included performers and other artistic types who plunge headlong into the world of business while realizing their creative dreams.

About the Series’ Sponsors

The three sponsors of the Houston-based luncheons, two of which are nonprofits, will continue their involvement as the series expands to The Woodlands. RSM US LLP is a public accounting and professional services firm ranked #5 in the U.S., and whose focus includes entrepreneurs comprising the dynamic Middle Market. The International Friends organization of Austria’s Kunsthistorisches Museum (IFKHM), building on the successful *Habsburg Splendor* exhibit from 2015 at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, provides images from its vast collection of artworks as the theme for each luncheon’s program. The French American Chamber of

Commerce (FACC) of Houston is a nonprofit organization encouraging cross-border commercial expansion between France and the United States. As FACC's Executive Director, Constance Bost, observes, "people recognize that the term "entrepreneur" has its origin in the French language. The FACC has long encouraged the entrepreneurs in our midst, but through this luncheon series we celebrate those who also make the Arts a priority."

Past speakers have included:

- a tax lawyer whose sideline is restitution of art stolen by the Nazis;
- a technology guru who uses software developed for oil companies' seismic data to preserve films and television shows;
- a former investment banker who switched careers to become a curator of contemporary art exhibits;
- an opera star compelled to become a businesswoman in order to manage her globe-trotting career;
- a best-selling author who demystified the publishing business while getting her novels into print.

The Art of Business series has attracted a fiercely loyal following in Houston, where between 25 and 50 people have turned out for each luncheon. "For RSM it has meant meeting lawyers, bankers, and other professionals we might never have otherwise encountered, as well as potential clients who appreciate RSM's commitment to the community," says Nancy Wakefield, Senior Director of the firm's Private Client Services Group in Houston.

Expansion to The Woodlands on September 19

The first luncheon in The Woodlands will be held on Wednesday, September 19 at Broken Barrel on Restaurant Row in Hughes Landing. "As a chef and the owner of Broken

Barrel, I applaud the entrepreneurial spirit underpinning the luncheons and am delighted for Broken Barrel to be their venue.”

The speaker will be Andrew White, one of the founders of the Verreux Collective. The nonprofit organization was formed in 2018 by this young entrepreneur to present performances of chamber music exclusively for The Woodlands. Its inaugural concert, featuring trios by Haydn, Schumann, and Beethoven, will be on Saturday, September 22 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Panther Creek.

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For more information, press only:

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To purchase a ticket for the luncheon on September 19 or for more information about the French American Chamber of Commerce of Houston:

<http://www.facchouston.org/events-news/>

To learn more about the Verreux Collective and to purchase tickets for the concert on September 22:

<https://www.verreux.org>

To learn more about Broken Barrel in Hughes Landing and to get directions:

<http://www.brokenbarrelwoodlands.com/>