

BY KENDALL MORGAN
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CHARITABLY CHIC

Influencers shine the spotlight on their favorite causes
with the new NorthPark Center Luxury Ambassador program.

Philanthropy has always been a hallmark of the city we live in, and Dallasites are famed for giving back with a generous combination of money, time, and spirit. Launching this December, the new NorthPark Luxury Ambassador Program allows those who have refined charity into an art the opportunity to garner further exposure for their favorite causes. Conceptualized by NorthPark co-owner Nancy Nasher and chaired by Kimberly Schlegel Whitman, the program is a logical extension from the legendary shopping center's "50 Years of Giving" birthday celebration in 2015.

Says Whitman, "When I came on board, this is something they proposed to me that I could spearhead, and I loved the idea of it. Of course, I love anything that has a philanthropic angle. This is a neat way for NorthPark to get to the root of the people that keep (the center) alive, these wonderful and active shoppers."

Starting with a list of 100 influencers, Whitman

helped narrow the first year's final roster down to 12 participants (two more of which you'll find on patronmagazine.com), a task that initially seemed as daunting as these magnanimous multitaskers settling on a single cause. "It was so hard to narrow it down, but these are people we really felt like we could kind of guess what nonprofit they would pick," says Whitman. "They are very active in two or three nonprofits, but they're very devoted to those. We picked people who really want to make a difference."

Each yearlong ambassadorship offers the opportunity to partner with NorthPark for events such as shopping nights that will benefit their favorite North Texas nonprofit institutions. However, the goal remains quite singular according to its chairwoman: "We want to be supportive of the ambassadors and their nonprofit needs. I hope the program always evolves to be relevant to what's going on in our city."

THE CEREBRAL COLLECTOR

Christen Wilson

Famed for her one-of-a-kind style and enviable art collection, California-girl-turned-Dallasite Christen Wilson embraces couture and contemporary works with an envelope-pushing eye all her own. Equally at home in a well-worn rock tee as she is in a Dior ball gown, she embodies an effortless cool.

Co-chair of the Tate Museum's North American Acquisition Committee, Wilson also sits on the board of the Whitney Museum in New York and is a chair of the Nasher Sculpture Center's advisory committee—all while raising three children.

Having divided her time at NorthPark between shopping and perusing the world-class collection of painting and sculpture, Wilson cites Michael Craig-Martin's *Untitled (Umbrella)* and *Untitled (Headphones)*, Liam Gillick's *Developmental*, the LEGO store, and Valentino as favorite must-sees during any visit.

Nancy Nasher and her husband and business partner David Haemisegger's contemporary collection makes NorthPark unique among American shopping sites; Wilson's choice of the Nasher Sculpture Center as her selected beneficiary brings her role as a Luxury Ambassador full circle. "There is nothing in Dallas like seeing sculpture and art in the beautiful garden at the Nasher Sculpture Center," Wilson explains. "The Nasher Sculpture Center has a global reach and has amazing curators and director, and The Nasher Prize has taken Dallas to a whole new level in the international art world."

