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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BMoA Celebrates National Pride Month at Art After Dark

June 10, 2021 – Bakersfield Museum of Art (BMoA) will celebrate National Pride Month during its popular Art After Dark series. The celebration of creativity and self-expression will be held on Thursday, June 24 from 7pm to 10pm at BMoA.

Guests are encouraged to bring a blanket and enjoy a spot in the sculpture garden for an unforgettable evening.

Local creative talent will be featured in performances throughout the night, including a drag show emceed by Justin Salinas of Cake It With Justin, and poets reading original work dealing with gender, sexuality, and queer identity. Famed artisanal cotton candy purveyor LUVSPUN will be spinning festive cotton candy live, with a special menu of flavors developed exclusively for BMoA PRIDE. Guests can dance the night away with live DJ sets by local favorite Blaise. A collaborative art project will be available for all guests to experience.

Moo Creamery will provide hand-crafted cocktails featuring Tom of Finland Organic Vodka – an awardwinning spirit made in celebration of the iconic Finnish artist – and mocktails throughout the evening.

Guests can also tour the exhibitions <u>Color + Figure: Paintings by Linda Christensen</u>, <u>Uncommon</u> <u>Perspective: Paintings by Art Sherwyn</u>, and <u>The Bakersfield Sound</u>: Roll Out the Red Carpet.

"Creativity and self-expression are part of what makes us all human, regardless of race, gender, identity or any other trait. As a fine art institution, we celebrate creativity and expression in everything we do. This event honors the many forms that creativity can take. All art has a place at BMoA," said BMoA Curator Rachel Magnus.

Art After Dark is generously supported by Moneywise Wealth Management, Wolf Spirits Distillery, and City Councilman Andrae Gonzales.

General admission is \$5. Tickets are only available at the door. Capacity is limited. Gates open at 7 pm. For more information, visit <u>bmoa.org/artafterdark</u>. Follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>Twitter</u> @thebmoa #bmoaartafterdark

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The Bakersfield Museum of Art's mission is to inspire and engage diverse audiences by providing a broad spectrum of creative visual arts experiences through the exhibition and preservation of fine art, educational programs, community outreach and special events. BMoA is open Tuesday through

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free admission and extended hours until 8 p.m. every First Friday of the month. The Museum will be closed most major holidays. Visit bmoa.org or call 661-323-7219 for more information.