



An Affiliate of Young Audiences
Arts for Learning

Media Release

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WICHITA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO BE HONORED AT ARTS PARTNERS' 10th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON ON OCTOBER 18, 2007

Wichita, KS - The Wichita Community Foundation is being honored by Arts Partners for its role in establishing the nonprofit organization. The Foundation will receive the Founder's Award at Arts Partners' annual The Arts Count Luncheon on October 18th at Botanica. For ten years, Arts Partners, a nonprofit organization, has been partnering with professional artists and arts and cultural organizations to inspire children to learn and create by providing arts-in-education programs across the curriculum.

Arts Partners was established in Wichita as the result of a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to Young Audiences, the nation's largest provider of arts-in-education services to schools. After evaluating seven mid-sized cities with Knight-Ridder newspapers, Wichita was selected as having the best environment for an innovative arts-in-education organization. One of the reasons Wichita was selected as the site for Arts Partners was because of the willingness of the Wichita Community Foundation to serve as the fledgling organization's fiscal agent and convenor until Arts Partners could be established as an independent nonprofit organization. According to Katie Lynn, executive director of Arts Partners, "The Wichita Community Foundation's support and the tireless efforts of its executive director, Jim Moore, to establish Arts Partners provided a strong foundation for the new organization. The Arts Partners Founder's Award is a symbol of the admiration and gratitude we have for the work of the Wichita Community Foundation and Jim Moore."

The Arts Count Luncheon on Thursday, October 18th, will include a Showcase of Arts Partners' Artists from 11:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. The luncheon and program

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will be from noon to 1:00 p.m. Richard Bell, executive director of Young Audiences, Inc. in New York City, and Mimi F. Willis, senior director, education, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia, will be special guests at the luncheon. The chair of the event is Kelly Callen, former president of the Arts Partners Board of Directors.

Proceeds from the event will support early childhood residencies presented by Kansas Wolf Trap – Early Learning Through the Arts, a program of Arts Partners. Tickets are \$35 per person, with \$15 tax deductible. Tables of eight are available for \$280. For tickets, call Arts Partners at 262-4771.

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As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Arts Partners partners with area Wichita arts and cultural organizations and artists to develop PreK- Grade 12 arts programs that introduce students to the visual, literary, and performing arts while reinforcing learning in other areas of the curriculum, including reading, writing, math, social studies, and science. The partnership includes representatives of school districts, schools, community artists, cultural organizations, and funders. Arts Partners is an affiliate of Young Audiences, Inc. Arts Partners is also the sponsoring organization of a new Wolf Trap Early Learning Through the Arts Regional Site, Kansas Wolf Trap. Arts Partners adds a new dimension to teaching and learning by linking schools to community arts resources.