



“Enriching Our Communities Through Advancement of the Arts”

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ALLIED ARTS CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

*Allied Arts launches annual fundraising campaign
for Central Oklahoma’s arts and celebrates anniversary*

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., January 28, 2011 –Allied Arts launched its 2011 fundraising campaign on Wednesday with a goal to raise over \$3 million, more money than ever before, to benefit the arts in Central Oklahoma. Campaign co-chairs, Ed Martin, chairman of the board, Ackerman McQueen, and Brenda McDaniel, community volunteer, will lead the charge to reach this historic goal and provide elevated support to Allied Arts’ 20 member arts agencies.

“Each year nearly two million people experience the arts through Allied Arts’ member organizations,” said McDaniel. “By donating to Allied Arts, you’re helping to make a variety of arts accessible to everyone, which contributes to higher academic achievement for our children, a higher quality of living for our residents and a stronger economic environment for our communities. As Oklahoma City continues to grow, we want to see the support for our local arts grow as well.”

The Campaign Kick-Off event, held at the Meinders Hall of Mirrors at the Civic Center, also served as a celebration of Allied Arts’ 40th anniversary, featuring appearances from Allied Arts member agencies – the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Oklahoma Children’s Theatre, the Oklahoma City Ballet and Canterbury Choral Society.

Since 1971, Allied Arts has mobilized more than \$43 million to ensure a vibrant, sustainable arts community. Over the span of four decades, Allied Arts has partnered with hundreds of leading local businesses and community organizations, as well as thousands of committed individuals to help meet the diverse needs of the arts and cultural community.

“For 40 years, the ultimate goal of Allied Arts has been to make the arts accessible to all, and the funds raised during our annual campaigns help to make that possible,” said Deborah McAuliffe Senner, president and CEO of Allied Arts.

In addition to raising critical funds for the arts, the annual campaign also honors individuals for their local leadership and remarkable contributions to the arts community. This year, Allied Arts recognizes LaDonna and Herman Meinders as honorary campaign chairs. In this role, the Meinders will lend their business expertise and community knowledge to help guide campaign efforts.

"On a personal level, the arts have had a positive impact on LaDonna and me. We have seen the way the arts can transform families and communities, and we feel it is critical to support our local arts organizations," said Herman Meinders. "The annual Allied Arts fundraising campaign gives everyone an opportunity to participate in supporting the arts in central Oklahoma."

Allied Arts offers numerous ways to contribute to the campaign. Individuals who donate \$50 or more can receive the OKCityCard, a premier entertainment discount card offering year-round savings at more than 200 arts events and activities, as well as top local retail and restaurant locations. Corporations can make organizational gifts and host workplace giving meetings, offering their employees a chance to pledge donations from their offices.

For more information or to contribute, please visit www.alliedartsokc.com or call (405) 278-8944. Donations are tax-deductible (\$50 for OKCC not tax deductible) and accepted any time.

About Allied Arts

As Oklahoma's only United Arts Fund, Allied Arts works to broaden support for the arts by raising financial support for the arts and related organizations, encouraging participation and attendance, advocating arts education, and promoting excellence in the arts and arts management. Founded in 1971, the organization has raised more than \$43 million to advance the arts in Central Oklahoma.

Allied Arts' member agencies include:

- Ambassadors' Concert Choir
- Arts Council of Oklahoma City
- Canterbury Choral Society
- Carpenter Square Theatre
- Cimarron Opera
- City Arts Center
- Guy Fraser Harrison Academy
- Individual Artists of Oklahoma
- Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
- Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art
- Metropolitan School of Dance
- Oklahoma Children's Theatre
- Oklahoma City Ballet
- OK City Chorus
- Oklahoma City Museum of Art
- Oklahoma City Philharmonic
- Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park
- Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition
- Prairie Dance Theatre
- Science Museum Oklahoma

For more information, contact Allied Arts at 405-278-8944 or visit www.alliedartsokc.com.

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****High resolution photos of the event and the campaign co-chairs and honorary chairs available upon request****