



*"Enriching Our Communities Through Advancement of the Arts"*

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### **ALLIED ARTS HOSTS "POP! ARTINI"**

*Annual event gathers supporters for premier arts fundraiser*

**Oklahoma City, Okla. (April 21, 2011)** – Allied Arts' young professionals group, Catalyst, hosted this year's ARTini fundraiser on April 9 and raised over \$29,000 for the arts in Central Oklahoma – the most funds ever raised from an Allied Arts ARTini event.. The event gathered approximately 650 people, more than ever before, for martini tastings and appetizers from 11 of Central Oklahoma's most popular restaurants.

Held at the Oklahoma City Farmers Public Market on April 9, ARTini also included live entertainment from the band HOOK, raffle prizes and a silent art auction featuring original work by local artists. All proceeds benefit Allied Arts and its 20 member agencies.

Participating restaurants created and served original martinis with the goal of winning the "Best ARTini" award chosen by local celebrity judges or the "People's Choice" award voted on by ARTini guests. New this year, there were also awards for creativity and use of this year's theme, "POP ARTini!", which was conveyed in fun ways through drink names, table decorations and staff costumes.

The featured restaurants participating in the event are 105degrees, 1492 New World Latin Cuisine, Deep Fork Grill, Iguana Mexican Grill, Ludivine, Museum Café, Pachinko Parlor, Paseo Grill, Picasso Café, Prohibition Room and Trattoria Il Centro.

Awards went to 1492 New World Latin Cuisine for "People's Choice", Deep Fork Grill for both "Best Décor" and "Best Use of Theme", Trattoria Il Centro for "Best Appetizer", and a tie between 105degrees and Pachinko Parlor for the "Best ARTini" award.

This year's panel of celebrity judges were Kelly Beall, creator of the Design Crush blog; Brian Byrnes, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Thunder; Miki Kawamura, dancer with the Oklahoma City Ballet; Desmond Mason, artist and former NBA star; Kellen McGugan, lead singer of Pretty Black Chains; and Mike Morgan, KFOR

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News Channel 4. However, Mike Morgan was unable to attend due to a threat of severe weather in the area.

As well as being a celebrity judge, Desmond Mason also participated in the event as a featured artist. The crowd of people enjoyed watching Mason as he painted live at the event, and the painting was auctioned off to benefit Allied Arts.

The art auction featuring original artwork from local artists included 48 pieces in various forms of painting, sculpture, photography and more. The items in this year's raffle were valued at a total of almost \$10,000, and included great prizes like an iPad from OPUBCO, Thunder team signed basketball and pennant, and a private film festival with deadCENTER Film Festival and Iguana Mexican Grill, as well as great spa, shopping, restaurant and arts prizes.

This year's ARTini was led by co-chairs Mary Margaret and Wes Knight, committee members Katy Bergman, Trevor Bruner, Lacey Cermak, Marni Fahrenbruck, Jed Ferguson, Misty Garrett, Darren Holland, Heath Hornbeek, Adrienne Husted, Kevin Jaeger, Amanda Kirkpatrick, Joe McIntyre, Lindsay McIntyre, Casi Peters, J.W. Peters, Erica Reid, Tyler Smith, Sarah Spinks, Jeff Thompson and Zack Zuhdi, as well as Allied Arts staff.

### **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](http://www.alliedartsokc.com).

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