



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL TO HONOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS
BETWEEN ARTS AND BUSINESS AT AWARDS 2006 LUNCHEON**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – March 28, 2006 – The **Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia**, the region’s only nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating mutually beneficial relationships between business and the arts and cultural institutions located in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Northern Delaware, today announced the recipients of the **Arts & Business Council 2006 Awards**. Celebrating its 25th year, the Council will honor extraordinary achievements between arts and business during the past year that have demonstrated a mutual benefit to both sectors.

The luncheon, which will be held on **Thursday, May 11, 2006** in the **Grand Ballroom at the Pennsylvania Convention Center**, is expected to draw more than 1,600 attendees, including leaders from the world of *art, film, music, dance, theater, history, media and business* – all of whom will experience world-class entertainment and inspiring examples of extraordinary achievements between arts and business across our culturally vibrant region.

“As chair of the Council’s Awards 2006, I congratulate the Council on 25 years of service to our region and applaud this year’s honorees for their commitment and dedication to sustaining and building the region’s culture,” said Dennis Alter, chairman and chief executive officer of **Advanta**, *Awards 2006 Presenting Sponsor*.

The Arts & Business Council Awards luncheon is the only fundraising event held by the Council each year and all proceeds from the event go directly to supporting its programs and services in the coming year. “This year’s luncheon will be a very special event that is truly a celebration of the Council’s 25 years collaborating with both business and arts to meet the needs of our thriving cultural community,” said Karen B. Davis, president and chief executive officer at the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia. “More this year than any other, this event is not to be missed!”

Business/Arts Partnership Awards

This year’s *Business/Arts Partnership Awards* honors two successful partnerships between a business and an arts or cultural organization. One *Business/Arts Partnership Award*, which will be presented by **Harmelin Media** and is bestowed on a small or mid-size business with annual revenues of less than \$250 million with an arts organization, will be awarded to **Exton Square Mall** with **Chester County Art Association**. The second *Business/Arts Partnership Award*, which will be presented by **KPMG LLP** and is bestowed on a major business with annual revenues exceeding \$250 million with an arts organization, will be awarded to **IBM Corporation** with the **University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology**.

G. Fred DiBona, Jr. Individual Leadership Award

The 2006 *G. Fred DiBona, Jr. Individual Leadership Award*, which honors an individual business or civic leader who has greatly contributed to one or more arts or cultural organizations in the region, will be awarded to **Joanne Harmelin**, president of Harmelin Media, for her broad and sustained support of numerous arts and cultural organizations, including the **Arden Theatre Company**, **Philadelphia Theatre Company**, and **Philadelphia Zoo**, among others. This award, named for the late G. Fred DiBona, Jr., will be presented by **Independence Blue Cross**.

On the Avenue of the Arts
200 South Broad Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19102-3896
P: 215.790.3620 www.artsandbusinessphila.org

Volunteers of the Year Awards

The Arts & Business Council *Volunteers of the Year Awards* honor four individuals who have made outstanding contributions to an arts or cultural organization as active business volunteers through the Council's signature programs.

This year's *Business Volunteers for the Arts (BVA) Volunteer of the Year Award* will be awarded to **Samuel A. Spurlock**, manager of solutions consulting at **CAI**, in recognition of his outstanding work with the **Philadelphia Sketch Club** as a BVA volunteer. Presenting sponsor for this award is **Verizon Foundation**.

The *Business On Board Member of the Year Award* will be awarded to **Steven N. Haas**, partner at **Cozen O'Connor**, in recognition of his outstanding service and support as a board member of the **Settlement Music School**. Presenting sponsor for this award is **PECO, An Exelon Company**.

The *Business On Call Volunteer of the Year Award* will be awarded to **Jay H. Brown**, manager of support services at **The Boeing Company**, in recognition of his outstanding contributions as a *Business On Call* volunteer to more than 21 different arts and cultural organizations, including the **Delaware Theatre Company, National Constitution Center, and Pennsylvania Ballet**, among others... Presenting sponsor for this award is **PNC Bank**.

The *Technology Connectors Volunteer of the Year Award* will be awarded to **Elise Miller**, operations manager at **DataTime Consulting**, in recognition of her work as a *Technology Connector* volunteer at the **Arts & Spirituality Center and Creative Access**. Presenting sponsor for this award is **Comcast**.

Tickets are \$125 for business professionals and the general public (each ticket is \$95 tax deductible) and \$50 for staff of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. To register or for more information, call 215.790.3620 or visit www.artsandbusinessphila.org. A reception to kick off the celebration will begin at 11:30 AM and the awards luncheon and festivities will begin at Noon in the Grand Ballroom at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

About the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, a nonprofit affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and a chapter of the national Arts & Business Council of Americans for the Arts, is the region's only nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating mutually beneficial relationships between business and the arts and cultural institutions located in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Northern Delaware. Since its inception in 1981, the Arts & Business Council has partnered with the business sector to generate more than \$20 million in contributed goods and services for the region's arts and cultural institutions and has trained and placed more than 2,000 business professionals in a variety of leadership roles within arts organizations. For more information, visit www.artsandbusinessphila.org or call 215.790.3620.

###

Media Contact:

Kelly Connor
Connor PR
856.223.9567 O
609.221.5785 M
Kelly@connorpr.com