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## **Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Join Forces**

Philadelphia, March 5, 2008 -- The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia announced today that it is integrating the operations and programs of the Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (PVLA) under its banner of services to the regional arts, business and legal communities. The combining of activities under the Council follows a thoughtful, analytical process, facilitated by an independent consulting firm with expertise in nonprofit sector mergers, that found the integration to be in the best interests of both organizations.

"We are pleased and excited to welcome our colleagues and the volunteers of PVLA as we join forces. The practice of law is an integral part of the Philadelphia business community, and the integration of PVLA services will maximize the capabilities of the Arts & Business Council, reinforcing its unique position within Greater Philadelphia," said Stephen S. Aichele, Esquire, Chair of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia board of directors.

Through its affiliation with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Arts & Business Council is best positioned to provide greater business support of the arts community and encourage deeper participation from the legal sector.

By assuming the management of PVLA, the Arts & Business Council will provide a seamless suite of business and legal services and resources that will support the growth potential of individual artists and arts and cultural organizations, as well as deepen participation and support by the business and legal sectors. The integration will result in expansion and enhancement of the valuable services that have been provided by PVLA over the last 30 years.

The union furthers the Council's mission to help drive the cultural vitality and economic development of the Greater Philadelphia Region by strengthening the partnership between business and the arts and cultural community. Bringing together the two organizations:

- Strengthens local arts and cultural organizations by pairing trained, competent and willing business people and attorneys with artists and arts organizations that would benefit from legal and business assistance.
- Provides individual artists with continued access to PVLA legal services and, over time, to the Arts & Business Council's suite of business assistance programs.
- Provides additional opportunities for business and legal professionals who want to support arts and cultural organizations and individual artists in Philadelphia.

To announce the partnership and celebrate its importance to the region, the Council and PVLA will host a reception for professionals from the legal, business and arts communities, on Tuesday, March 11, from 6 - 8 p.m. in The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Historic Landmark Building. The event is sponsored by CrossAtlantic Capital Partners, LandAmerica Commercial Services, Michael Coleman and The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

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## **About the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia**

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, an 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 organization dedicated to driving cultural vitality and economic development by strengthening the partnership between business and the arts and cultural community in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Northern Delaware.

The Council provides a myriad of programs and services that offer both leadership opportunities for business leaders and assistance to the cultural community including Business Volunteers for the Arts<sup>®</sup>, Business On Board<sup>®</sup>, Technology Connectors<sup>™</sup> and Business On Call<sup>®</sup>. In March 2008, the Council will add Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (PVLA) to its roster of programs.

Since its inception in 1981, the Arts & Business Council has partnered with the business sector to generate more than \$26 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, please visit [www.artsandbusinessphila.org](http://www.artsandbusinessphila.org) or call 215.790.3620.

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