



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL TO HONOR EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS
BETWEEN ARTS AND BUSINESS AT AWARDS 2008 LUNCHEON ON MAY 9**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – April 24, 2008 – The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia (the Council), a Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce affiliate, will recognize the recipients of the Arts & Business Council 2008 Awards at its annual Arts & Business Council Awards Luncheon. The ceremony will start promptly at noon on Friday, May 9, 2008 in the Grand Ballroom at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

“From Bank of America’s viewpoint, the arts are a vital economic development engine that help build healthy communities. So we are especially pleased to take a lead role for Awards 2008 as the Presenting Sponsor and to recognize the inspirational honorees for their outstanding commitment and dedication towards building our region by bridging the worlds of arts and business,” said Tom Woodward, President of Bank of America Pennsylvania and Awards 2008 Chair.

The Council has themed this year’s Awards Luncheon “Taking it to the Streets” celebrating business and arts leaders who share a belief in the importance of our cultural assets to the region, backing it up by their strong dedication and willingness to share their skills and resources to strengthen the arts and cultural sector. In attendance will be **Governor Edward G. Rendell** who will co-present the G. Fred DiBona, Jr. Individual Leadership Award.

Awards 2008, the Council’s only annual fundraising event will start with a performance by Philadelphia based hip hop dance company **Illstyle & Peace Productions**. An awe-inspiring feat of movement by international award-winning juggler **Anthony Gatto, an artist in the latest Cirque du Soleil touring show, “KOOZA,”** will also take center stage and the soul-stirring a cappella harmonies and African percussions of **Voices of Africa** will conclude the show.

According to Karen B. Davis, Council President & CEO, “We are thrilled to be ‘Taking it to the Streets’ and that Awards 2008 will live on beyond May 9. After its debut at Awards 2008 the stunning mural that will serve as a backdrop for the event and the creation of artist Parris Stancell, one of the four full-time artists employed by Philadelphia’s Mural Arts Program, will move to Benjamin Rush Elementary School in Bensalem, where the artist’s message will continue to uplift students and the neighborhood well into the future.”

AWARDS 2008 HONOREES

The outstanding honorees to be recognized at Awards 2008 include:

Avatar Award for Artistic Excellence *presented by Saul Ewing LLP*

Honors an artist who has worked or lived in the Greater Philadelphia Region, received worldwide acclaim and serves as an inspiration to the region. Previous honorees have included such luminaries as Maestro Wolfgang Sawallisch, artists’ Andrew Wyeth and Jamie Wyeth, author/poet Sonia Sanchez, filmmaker Jonathan Demme and legendary musical producers and songwriters Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.

Lisa Scottoline (Paoli, PA)
Author and Attorney

Ms. Scottoline, the first female attorney to write in a new genre, mystery thrillers with a legal twist, has brought the streets of Philadelphia to life for more than 20 million readers worldwide. In addition to her suspense thrillers, she writes a weekly Sunday column, “Chick Wit,” for *The Philadelphia Inquire* with her trademark wit and humor.

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Business/Arts Partnership Awards

Honors two successful partnerships between a business and an arts or cultural organization.

Sneaker Villa (Philadelphia, PA) with Art-Reach (Philadelphia, PA)

Presented by Harmelin Media

In a unique community based, socially conscious arts project, Sneaker Villa and Art-Reach offered a group of William Penn high school students the chance to respond positively to the violence plaguing their communities.

Dranoff Properties (Philadelphia, PA) with Philadelphia Theatre Company (Philadelphia, PA)

Presented by KPMG LLP

Through mutual creativity and cooperation, Philadelphia Theatre Company and Dranoff Properties created a groundbreaking mixed-use complex on the Avenue of the Arts.

G. Fred DiBona, Jr. Individual Leadership Award *presented by Independence Blue Cross*

Named for the late G. Fred DiBona, Jr., this award honors an individual business or civic leader who has greatly contributed to one or more arts or cultural organizations in the region.

Diane Dalto Woosnam (Philadelphia, PA)

Chair, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Recognized for her broad and sustained support of numerous arts and cultural organizations, including the Arden Theatre, Philadelphia Orchestra, Philadelphia Art Alliance, Philagraphika, Asociacion de Musicos Latino Americanos and the Asian Arts Initiative.

Volunteers of the Year Awards

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

Heather M. Newcomb (Cherry Hill, NJ)

Vice President, Strategic Communications, Sage Communications Partners

Business Volunteers for the Arts (BVA) Volunteer of the Year Award presented by Verizon

Recognized for her outstanding communications work with the Astral Artists as a BVA volunteer.

Edward M. Mayer, Esq. (Churchville, PA)

Principal and Owner, Mayer & Associates Intellectual Capitalists

Business On Board Member of the Year Award presented by PECO

Recognized for his outstanding service and support as a board member of Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial.

Glynis L. Joynes (Philadelphia, PA)

Sales & Service Specialist, PNC

Business On Call Volunteer of the Year Award presented by American Water

Recognized for her outstanding contributions as a Business On Call volunteer to numerous arts and cultural organizations, including the Japan America Society, Art Sanctuary and the Philadelphia Zoo among others.

Jeffrey D. Green (Philadelphia, PA)

Owner, Savant Technology Consulting

Technology Connectors Volunteer of the Year Award presented by Comcast

Recognized for his expert technology assistance at the Philadelphia Sketch Club, and The Village of Arts and Humanities, among others.

Michael E. Costa III, Esq. (Philadelphia, PA) and Steven D. Kim, Esq. (Philadelphia, PA)

Attorneys, Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll, LLP

PVLA Volunteer of the Year Award presented by Shire Pharmaceuticals

With expert help from the Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll legal team of Michael Costa and Steven Kim, local filmmaker Ben Herold dealt with a range of intellectual property issues, including the development of composer licenses and work-for-hire agreements and negotiation of music clearances

Tickets are \$100 for business professionals and the general public (each ticket is \$75 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. Networking will kick off the celebration at 11:30 a.m. and the awards luncheon and festivities will begin at 12 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

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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 nonprofit organization that helps drive the cultural vitality and economic development of the Greater Philadelphia Region by strengthening the partnership between business and the arts and cultural community 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 \$27 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

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