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**ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES
NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – February 28, 2006 – The **Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia** today announced the appointments of Michael Scolamiero and Elizabeth Williams to its board of directors.

Michael Scolamiero, executive director of the **Pennsylvania Ballet**, brings more than 20 years of experience working within the cultural sector to his position on the Council's board of directors. Since 1997, Scolamiero has led the Pennsylvania Ballet to financial stability while sustaining its significant artistic growth. He has been instrumental in developing major gift and planned giving programs, comprehensive sponsorship programs, and a Repertory Fund for the creation of new works. In addition, he has worked to create opportunities for the company to tour and this past August the company made its international debut at The Edinburgh International Festival.

Prior to the Pennsylvania Ballet, Scolamiero served as executive director at Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia and at West Jersey Chamber Music Society, and served as administrative manager for the Haddonfield Symphony. Scolamiero lives in Center City Philadelphia and volunteers as a pianist at Saint John the Evangelist Church. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in music education with a focus on clarinet and piano from Lebanon Valley College (Annville, PA) and a Master of Music degree in clarinet performance from Pennsylvania State University (State College, PA).

Elizabeth Williams, vice president of corporate and public affairs for **Independence Blue Cross** (IBC), brings extensive knowledge of communications strategy to the board. Before joining IBC in 2005, Williams was principal of EW Communications, a consulting firm with clients including The Wharton School and The Pew Charitable Trusts. Previously, she managed Pew's portfolio of national historic preservation grants when she served as its director of administration. Williams began her career as a reporter and editor in Philadelphia, holding a variety of editing positions at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, including associate managing editor overseeing new product development and finance. In 1992, she became vice president of marketing for the *Inquirer* and *Daily News*, in charge of brand marketing strategy, promotion and research.

Williams currently serves on the marketing committee of the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and has served on the boards of the United Way and the American Cancer Society. She also chairs the Upper School Parents Association at Germantown Friends School. Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Smith College (Northampton, MA) and a Master of Arts degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University (Evanston, IL).

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 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, please visit www.artsandbusinessphila.org or call 215.790.3620.

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