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**ANDREW WYETH AND JAMIE WYETH TO RECEIVE
PRESTIGIOUS AVATAR AWARD
AT ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL AWARDS 2004 CEREMONY**

**LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT TO BE FEATURED AT 20TH ANNUAL
AWARDS LUNCHEON ON MAY 11 AT PA CONVENTION CENTER**

*Performances by modern dance troupe Junk, charismatic string trio Time for Three,
and talented actor Tony Braithwaite to engage audience at the cultural event of the year.*

PHILADELPHIA – Last night, the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia held a Preview Party and Press Reception at the Arden Theatre Company and announced the honorees of its Awards 2004. The highly anticipated annual ceremony, taking place this year on Tuesday, May 11 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, encourages area professionals and residents to pay tribute to the business and arts leaders who have contributed to the arts and cultural community and made a lasting impact on our region.

Award recipients were introduced by Donald R. Caldwell, Founder, Chairman & CEO of Cross Atlantic Capital Partners, Inc. and Chair of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, who will also host the May 11 ceremony with G. Fred DiBona, Jr., Awards Chair and President & Chief Executive Officer of Independence Blue Cross (Awards 2004 Presenting Sponsor), and Mark S. Schweiker, President & CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

The **Avatar Award for Artistic Excellence**, presented by Saul Ewing LLP, is an honor given to artists in the Greater Philadelphia Region who have achieved worldwide acclaim, embody artistic achievement, and who serve as an inspiration to the entire region, both as artists and as leaders. This year, the prestigious award goes to **Andrew Wyeth** and **Jamie Wyeth**. Considered by many to be “America’s first family of art,” the Wyeth legacy can be traced to Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania where these painters found their artistic voice and inspiration. Prolific in the use of their talents, Andrew Wyeth and Jamie Wyeth have infused their artwork with a beauty that genuinely characterizes the Brandywine landscape. The Wyeths are a cultural treasure well deserving of this honor.

The Wyeths will join all award honorees at the Awards 2004 Luncheon and Ceremony on Tuesday, May 11 in the Grand Ballroom of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Reception will begin at 11:30 a.m. with festivities, awards, and luncheon beginning at noon. Often recognized as “the cultural event of the year,” the Awards celebration has drawn a sold-out crowd for the past 19 years to honor partnerships and leaders that have advanced the Greater Philadelphia Region through arts and culture. Officials anticipate nearly 1,800 attendees for Awards 2004.

The Council also announced the dynamic performers – local Philly talent – who will entertain the audience that gathers to appreciate the outstanding business/arts contributions:

The ceremony will be highlighted with performances by **Junk**, a modern dance troupe that combines athleticism and grace with fantasy and wit; **Time for Three**, a charismatic string trio that noted conductor Simon Rattle describes as “the future of music” and “a knockout”; and **Tony Braithwaite**, one of Philadelphia’s leading actors who will engage the audience with humor and improvisation. The Arts & Business Council is proud to showcase all three exciting entertainment acts as local Philly talent with ever-increasing followings across the country. Returning as emcee for Awards 2004 is Larry Kane, Philadelphia’s former anchor dean.

Honorees of partnership, individual, and management achievements at Arts & Business Council Awards 2004 are:

PNC Bank with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation

Business/Arts Partnership Award (major business with arts organizations) -- Presented by KPMG LLP

PNC Bank understands the importance of arts to drive the economy. Working in unison with Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, PNC Bank embraced its overlapping sponsorships of the Philadelphia Flower Show and the Degas and the Dance exhibit as an opportunity to create an unprecedented, cross-promotional marketing partnership. PNC Bank’s visionary leadership demonstrated the company’s support of arts and cultural organizations as key economic drivers for our region and helped the two events generate more than \$65 million toward the regional economy.

The Philadelphia Tribune with WHYY.

Business/Arts Partnership Award (small or mid-size business) -- Presented by Harmelin Media
This strategic collaboration between WHYY and *The Philadelphia Tribune* led to an innovative production of *Denyce Graves: Breaking the Rules*, a world-renowned opera singer performing a concert of classical, jazz, and gospel music. *The Philadelphia Tribune* agreed to its largest-ever media sponsorship in support of WHYY’s concert event. With a mutual passion for the arts and educating young people, the partners brought more than 900 inner-city school children to the live audience, taping of the concert in June 2003 at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Fairmount Park. The partnership is recognized as a benchmark for artistic excellence that has showcased the City of Philadelphia as a cultural resource while affording young people the opportunity for greater multicultural understanding through music and helping them appreciate the powerful role the arts can play in their lives.

Carole Price Shanis

Individual Leadership Award -- Presented by Accenture

Carole Price Shanis, internationally known interior designer and philanthropist, embodies contagious drive, spirit, and generosity. As board president of the Philadelphia Art Alliance, Ms. Shanis has led the revitalization of the historic organization and steers it with a commitment to growth and achievement. Yet, her cultural interests and broad, visionary leadership span the full palette of arts disciplines through her association with the Pennsylvania Orchestra, the Pennsylvania Ballet, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Mayor’s Art and Culture Board, the Philadelphia Festival for the Arts, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the Friends of Independence National Historic Park. Ms. Shanis is regarded as a powerhouse of influence, knowledge, and dedication who has inspired countless others to also support the arts generously and fervently.

James A. Michener Art Museum

Arts Management Excellence Award -- Presented by PECO Energy

Since its inception in 1987, the James A. Michener Art Museum has grown into a vital cultural organization that honors and preserves Bucks County’s artistic heritage and serves as the

principal educational institution about American art for the region's growing population. The Michener Art Museum has kept focus on its mission while developing an impressive record of carefully sustained growth, including three major expansions to its original Doylestown facility and, in 2003, adding a satellite facility in New Hope. This progress was made possible by broad-based support from the community of artists, public officials, business people, and residents, as well as a wise and dedicated board of directors. With a demonstrated record of balancing managerial and fiscal responsibility with artistic and educational excellence, and maintaining a strong base of community support, the James A. Michener Art Museum is an archetype of a nonprofit operating with management excellence.

The Council is also pleased to recognize the outstanding contributions of active business volunteers in four of the Arts & Business Council's programs:

Jill Kristin Malila, Principal, Mercer Human Resource Consulting

BVA Volunteer of the Year Award -- Presented by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Philadelphia Daily News*

Business executives involved with the Arts & Business Council's *Business Volunteers for the Arts*[®] (BVA) program provide management consulting to arts managers and arts boards. Jill Kristin Malila is recognized for her outstanding contributions to the Philadelphia Theatre Company where she utilized her exceptional skills and experience to help the organization enhance its employee retirement benefits package. The ability to hire and retain a quality workforce is a critical component to organizational planning and success of arts and cultural organizations. Ms. Malila contributed valuable time and expertise to design a defined contribution plan for the theatre; her counsel and in-kind services have made a sustained impact on the Philadelphia Theatre Company resulting in long-term value to its employees.

Nancy M. Stuski, Publisher, Philadelphia WEEKLY

Business On Board[®] **Member of the Year** -- Presented by Verizon Foundation

Nancy M. Stuski, is recognized for her outstanding contributions as a board member with Philadelphia Young Playwrights (PYP). The Arts & Business Council placed Ms. Stuski with PYP at a pivotal juncture when the organization was working to restructure board committees and enhance board members' roles in governance and resource development. She emerged as a true leader during this period, stepping forward to become chair of the critical Fundraising Committee. Under her leadership, the board's personal giving has significantly increased and the constituency of individual donors has grown, which is crucial for the long-term health of Philadelphia Young Playwrights. She is an entrepreneurial thinker and role model for other board members, maximizing her personal and professional capacities to benefit young playwrights and will become the next board president of Philadelphia Young Playwrights in September 2004. Her level of service, strong professional background, passion for the theatre's mission, and leadership by supreme example make her uniquely deserving of this award.

Alvin G. Evans, Assistant Vice President, PNC Advisors

Business On Call[®] **Volunteer of the Year Award** -- Presented by Commerce Bank

Recognized for his outstanding contributions to Carpenters' Hall, Elfreth's Alley, and the Geographical Society of Philadelphia through the Arts & Business Council's *Business On Call*[®] program, Alvin G. Evans embodies the ideal hands-on volunteer. Mr. Evans contributed 128 hours of service last year - the equivalent of over three weeks of donated time - to benefit a number of arts and cultural organizations. As a *Business On Call* volunteer for the past three years, he is often assigned as an event greeter and tour guide - but it's his friendliness, knowledge, dependability, and dedication that leave a lasting impression on those he encounters. Always prepared and enthusiastic, Mr. Evans ensures touring visitors have a safe and memorable experience. His professionalism, trustworthiness, and flexibility are admirable, and event coordinators often request him by name! His commitment to volunteerism in the arts and cultural community is inspiring.

Samuel T. Adenbaum, Principal, STA Technology

The Technology Connectors™ Volunteer of the Year Award -- Presented by The Comcast Foundation

Samuel Adenbaum is recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Philadelphia Art Alliance, Lantern Theatre Company, and Blue Sky as a “tech connector” in *The Technology Connectors™* program of the Arts & Business Council. His professionalism and dedication to address various information technology concerns unique to nonprofit organizations is admirable. Last year, he contributed more than 100 hours to arts and cultural organizations, providing technology expertise in database management, accounting systems technology, networking, and web management, as well as helping to upgrade hardware memory and operating systems, acquire donated computers, improve Internet connectivity, and more. Mr. Adenbaum gives generously of his time and in-kind support to improve the technology capacity and operational efficiency of arts and cultural organizations, enhancing their ability to effectively accomplish their missions and continue to serve our communities. He is an excellent model for technology professionals to emulate.

Additional Note:

For the first time in the Arts & Business Council’s awards history, award sponsors will donate \$1,000 to each awarded arts organization and to awarded individuals who will contribute the cash donation to an arts and cultural organization(s) of his/her choice.

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Editor’s Note: Full press kits are available. Contact Kris Parsons at 856-427-4131 or at [ksparsons@rcn.com](mailto:ksparsons@rcn.com)

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia fosters and builds partnerships between business and the arts that are mutually beneficial and contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of the Greater Philadelphia Region. Since its inception in 1981, the Council has provided services to the arts and cultural community and led broad initiatives valued at over \$18 million by engaging more than 1,000 business employees from 150 area businesses. The Council is a chapter of the national Arts & Business Council, Inc. and an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit [www.artsbusiness.org](http://www.artsbusiness.org) or call 215.790.3620.

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