

**NEWS RELEASE**

Press Contact:

Virginia M. Maroun

215.790.3674

[vmaroun@philachamber.com](mailto:vmaroun@philachamber.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL TO HOST FORUM, "TAKING THE TORCH"**

*January 14, 2004 forum will host leaders to share insights and inspire  
young business and arts professionals to be rising stars in the region*

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PHILADELPHIA – November 17, 2003 – The Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia is pleased to announce a forum, "Taking the Torch -- Young professionals learn from leaders," that will address what it takes to become a leader, the important characteristics of leaders and how to develop them, the challenges and rewards of leadership, and, most importantly, how the arts can play a central role in becoming a leader in the region.

The forum will take place on **Wednesday, January 14, 2004, from 6 to 8 p.m.** at WHYI studios, Independence Mall West, 150 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia. This will be a popular forum, so the Council encourages those interested to **register early at [www.artsbusiness.org/metlife.htm](http://www.artsbusiness.org/metlife.htm)**.

Whether a college student, a young professional, a mentor, or an up-and-comer already on the path to becoming a leader in the region's business or arts sectors, this forum will be an educational eye-opener. J. William Mills III, a well-recognized and respected leader in the region and President of PNC Bank, will be sharing his wisdom gained from years of experience as a business leader and arts supporter. Other professionals who will offer insights of business-arts partnerships made and paths taken towards leadership will join him.

"Today's young, talented innovators will become tomorrow's leaders and position this region as a magnet to attract other creative people just like themselves," said Karen B. Davis, President and CEO of the Arts & Business Council. "This engaging forum will provide young professionals with the necessary vision of a day-in-the-life of a leader and how to prepare for that challenge whether a professional in business or the arts."

The forum is made possible through the generous support of the MetLife Foundation. The Foundation has renewed its support of the Arts & Business Council's Inc.'s National Arts Forum series to fund forums on current issues in the arts. The forums will take place in 10 cities nationwide: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, San Francisco, and St. Louis. Entering its second year, this national program will explore pressing issues facing arts organizations in our country. Recognizing the vital role the arts play in building healthy communities, MetLife Foundation contributes to arts and cultural organizations across the United States. For more information about the Foundation, please visit its web site at [www.metlife.org](http://www.metlife.org).

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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 an affiliate of the national network of the Arts & Business Council, Inc. and 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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