

For Immediate Release
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2012 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Winners Revealed

Eight winners have been selected to receive the 2012 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio. The awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony honoring the winners and members of the Ohio Legislature at noon on **Wednesday, May 9, 2012** at the Columbus Athenaeum in downtown Columbus. The luncheon is hosted by the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. Winners will receive an original work of art by Debra Joyce Dawson, a plein air artist from Pataskala.

Winners were selected from 67 nominations submitted by individuals and organizations throughout Ohio. The award categories and recipients are: Arts Administration, **Ed Stern & Buzz Ward, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park** (Cincinnati); Arts Education, **Toledo School for the Arts** (Toledo); Arts Patron, **Louise D. Nippert** (Cincinnati); Business Support of the Arts, **Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio** (Dayton); Community Development & Participation, **ArtsinStark** (Canton); Individual Artist, **Michael Jerome Bashaw** (Kettering); Irma Lazarus Award, **Barbara S. Robinson** (Cleveland).

The 2012 Governor's Awards Selection Committee consisted of seven Ohio Arts Council board members and three non-board members who were selected by Ohio Citizens for the Arts. They were: Committee Chair Chuck McWeeny (Athens), Ohio Arts Council committee members Karen Bell (Columbus), Louisa Celebrezze (Columbus), Matt Colopy (Columbus), Sara Jane DeHoff (Perrysburg), Jeff Rich (Dublin) and Tom Schorgl (Cleveland), and Ohio Citizens for the Arts committee members Marc Folk (Toledo), Mary Gimpel (Cincinnati) and Dave Seyer (Dayton).

More information about the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio & Arts Day Luncheon, including a full list of past winners and program advertising information, is available on the Ohio Arts Council website at www.oac.ohio.gov/events/GovAwards.

The Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio & Arts Day Luncheon will be held in conjunction with Arts Day on Wednesday, May 9, 2012. This daylong event demonstrating public value and support for the arts is sponsored by the Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. Arts Day will include an arts advocacy briefing, legislative visits, an arts showcase, Statehouse tours and student exhibitions. For more information on Arts Day 2012, visit www.ohiocitizensforthearts.org or call 614/221-4064.

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Arts Day was created to foster a greater awareness of the value of the arts in Ohio. Citizens are encouraged to participate in Arts Day by visiting with their state legislators and communicating the need for public support of the arts and arts education. Every year on Arts Day, the Capitol is filled with arts supporters sharing the importance of the arts in their communities.

The 2012 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio & Arts Day Luncheon are presented in partnership with the Ohio Channel.

About the Ohio Arts Council:

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

About Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation:

Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation provides information to all Ohioans about the arts and promotes their value to a high quality of life, a strong economy and the achievement of educational excellence. The foundation was formed in 1990 as a companion organization to Ohio Citizens for the Arts, which was established in 1976. Ohio Citizens for the Arts is a statewide, nonprofit grassroots membership organization focused on increasing public support for the arts in Ohio. Through the efforts of thousands of individuals and arts and education organizations, Ohio Citizens for the Arts advocates on behalf of the Ohio Arts Council and the arts throughout the state.

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Attachments:

2012 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

2012 LIST OF NOMINEES BY CITY