

RECIPIENTS OF 2006 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS IN OHIO

ARTS EDUCATION, Jack Louiso, Cincinnati

As the current Artistic Director of The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Jack Louiso drives the organization to fulfill its mission to support, nurture and provide a quality environment for the arts and arts education to flourish throughout southwest Ohio. Louiso has made contributions to advance arts education since he was 17, when he started his first of 10 dance studios. Since then he has been instrumental in creating new arts education initiatives that have had an impact not only locally and statewide, but nationally and internationally as well. Through his work with The Children's Theatre and his experiences before that, Louiso has turned countless young people on to theatre and the arts. Under his supervision and vision, the company has produced 44 productions, 14 of which were world premiere works. During the past 12 years, the company has increased the audience size from 22,000 to more than 80,000. In 2005, with the expansion of The Children's Theatre to include a new touring division known as ArtReach, audiences will expand to more than 250,000 each year. Louiso served as Artistic Director of the internationally renowned School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, the first arts magnet school in the country, from 1975 - 1992. During his tenure, he directed productions that toured nationally, as well as to Europe and Japan. The school prospered under his direction, launching the successful careers of actors, singers, dancers, designers, stage technicians and business professionals. Louiso began his professional career as a dancer in the Cincinnati Opera Ballet. He also served as the organization's choreographer for 35 years. In addition, he has choreographed for major opera companies, including New York City, Houston, Seattle, Honolulu and Philadelphia. He received a B.S. in Education and B.A.A. in Applied Arts at the University of Cincinnati, and he taught art in both Cincinnati and Kentucky public schools. Jack Louiso is a tireless advocate of arts education and his work in the field has positively influenced thousands of school children. His belief and practice that art, fun and education must work hand-in-hand to cultivate young minds is helping to build generations of artists, arts patrons and successful business people.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION, Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center, Portsmouth

For more than 26 years, the Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center (SOMAC) has responded to the needs of the Portsmouth and Scioto County area, providing arts education and cultural enrichment to thousands of children and adults. With a variety of programs and approaches, the Museum has attracted and served ever-growing audiences of all kinds. SOMAC serves as a major educational resource for schools in the region. The Museum has secured Ohio Arts Council artist residencies each year since 1979 when it opened and guided tours of exhibitions that serve as catalysts for arts education, writing and critical thinking. The Museum has also developed a custom-crafted, alternative educational opportunity. Once a month, for a full day, two staffers deliver interactive arts education for students in the city schools' Center for Alternative and Progressive Education (CAPE), including discussion of exhibitions, a hands-on studio project, and a writing exercise related directly to the exhibition. SOMAC supports local minority communities, developing interests and arts opportunities both in-house and off-site. Residencies have included a theatre artist crafting a presentation of "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" with a local African American cast and ceramic artist Angelica Pozo inspiring the creation of original ceramic tiles for the 14th Street Community Center facade. Other enlightening residencies have placed African American artists as artist role models in predominantly white, Appalachian settings. Most importantly, SOMAC responds to identified needs in their community. Through a close collaboration with the OAC's Community

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Development Initiative (CDI) the Museum developed a Youth Summit which pinpointed a dearth of local activities for children. They subsequently launched Cirque d'Art Theatre, a performing arts troupe. Of 200 weekly participants, 137 of the participants are considered "at risk" and 20 or more have multiple disabilities. Through regular circus activities, Museum tour workshops, frequent performances and numerous community service projects, Cirque students and their families have gained familiarity with Museum programs and participate enthusiastically. In only two years, this new programming has created significant employment for dozens of teen assistants. Involvement in the CDI project, the Cirque program and the opening of the new permanent exhibition of 10,000 prehistoric Native American artifacts has dramatically raised the profile of the Museum in the community and region, and has had a direct impact on tourism, economic development and increased audience participation. In addition, Museum attendance has nearly doubled in the past three years—31,833, up from 17,910 in 2002. Through their innovative programming and thoughtful community engagement SOMAC has helped Portsmouth and the surrounding region develop a renewed sense of connection to the arts.

ARTS ADMINISTRATION, Nannette V. Maciejunes, Columbus

Nannette V. Maciejunes was named Executive Director of the Columbus Museum of Art in November 2003, but her career with the Museum began long nearly 20 years earlier. In 1984 she joined the staff as a curatorial assistant and went on to become Chief Curator with specific responsibility for the Museum's American collections. A nationally recognized scholar of American art, Nannette has published and lectured extensively. She has organized major exhibitions that toured nationally and internationally including *The Paintings of Charles Burchfield: North by Midwest* and *A Nation's Legacy: 150 Years of American Art from Ohio Collections*. She co-curated *Illusions of Eden: Visions of the American Heartland*, which received the endorsement of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities and was one of only three official millennial events of the White House Millennium Council. Her exhibition projects have received numerous accolades including support from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Not only is Maciejunes a brilliant art historian and organized administrator with strong interpersonal skills but a true a collaborator and connector. The first exhibition under her directorship, *Renoir's Women*, is the first in a series of major exhibitions that highlight the Museum's own collection and feature key works on loan from Museums and private collections around the globe. A new online ticketing system and innovative community partnerships are helping *Renoir's Women* consistently break Museum attendance records. But Nannette's success as an executive director goes beyond her art history expertise. She is a dynamic, passionate and personable leader whose believes strongly in the power of art and in the strengths of human creative capital. The partnerships she has helped forge with the Museum's various constituencies and other organizations in the community have provided a remarkable support system for the Museum. Maciejunes received her B.A. from Denison University in Granville, Ohio and her graduate degree in History of Art from The Ohio State University. She is a 1999 graduate of the Leadership Institute for Museum Management at The Getty Institute. She has given more than 20 years of her expertise, time and talent to the Museum and central Ohio is fortunate to have her visionary leadership and collaborative and dynamic spirit.

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ARTS PATRON, David K. and Georgia E. Welles, Toledo

David K. and Georgia E. Welles have been actively involved in the Toledo arts community for more than forty years. They have contributed countless hours as volunteers and significant financial resources to non-profit organizations throughout Ohio, across the country and around the world. The arts, in particular, have always been one of their passions and philanthropic interests. The roster of organizations in northwest Ohio that have benefited from their devotion to service includes many social service and arts organizations such as the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, Bowling Green State University and the Toledo Museum of Art, as well as on boards throughout Ohio, including Georgia's longtime service on the Ohio Arts Council Board. They are avid, world-class collectors of art and have made significant purchases over the years in a variety of media. The Welles have supported the Toledo Museum of Art for more than 30 years, not only financially, but also through countless hours as volunteer leaders on the Museum's Board of Directors and various Board Committees. In 1988, David led the charge to create the Business Council, which continues to provide critical annual support to the Museum from Toledo's business community. Georgia is responsible for establishing the Museum's Apollo Society in 1986 and continues to serve as the Society's President. The Apollo Society is a group of dedicated art patrons who have contributed nearly \$3.5 million over the years to acquire some 40 important works of art for the Museum's collections. Most resounding, however, is the leadership that Georgia and David have shown during the Museum's two recent capital and endowment campaigns, especially the Founders of the Second Century campaign, 1999-2002, which they co-chaired. This recent campaign, which raised more than \$60 million, was the largest fundraising campaign in Toledo's history. The results of this campaign include the stabilization and preservation of the Museum's 1912 building; the refurbishment of a Professional Building, which now houses offices for the Toledo Symphony, the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, and the Museum; and the establishment of an art conservation endowment. The sculpture garden, now named the Georgia and David K. Welles Sculpture Garden, was completed in 2001 and has helped reclaim the Museum's front entrance. The garden includes more than 20 major sculptures, eight of which were donated by Georgia and David. Not since the Museum's founders, Edward Drummond Libbey and Florence Scott Libbey, at the beginning of the twentieth century, have there been two people more dedicated to the Toledo Museum of Art and to the arts in their community than Georgia and David Welles. They are two of Toledo and Ohio's most exemplary leaders and advocates of the arts.

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST, Steven Bognar, Yellow Springs

Steven Bognar, an independent film maker for more than 20 years, has made a significant contribution to film making in Ohio and nationally. Bognar's output as a filmmaker includes three very different films, all of which have been featured at the Sundance Film Festival. It is quite rare for an artist to have all their major works presented at Sundance, where several thousand films compete for every slot each year. Even more remarkable is that all three films are of different genres. His first full length documentary, *Personal Belongings*, was about his father, a Hungarian immigrant who returns to Hungary both before and after the fall of Communism. *Personal Belongings* was also presented on the national PBS series, POV. The second project, *Picture Day*, was a short film that his students co-produced as part of an Ohio Arts Council sponsored artist residency at Tussing Elementary in Pickerington. And the third, a short dramatic film, *Gravel*, was an experimental piece about mother/daughter relationships. Bognar's primary project for the last seven years, however, has been *Lion in the House* which examines the many issues a family must deal with when a child is diagnosed with cancer.

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Produced in partnership with Julia Reichert, this four-hour documentary will air over two days in spring 2006 on PBS. *Lion in the House* is much more than a documentary film—it seeks to raise consciousness about a number of issues related to childhood cancer and through their work on the film Bognar and Reichert have built an extraordinary movement that coordinates the efforts of most of the major health organizations concerned with childhood cancer. As a local artist Bognar has made significant contributions to his community and its youth by building a video program at Yellow Springs High School. Students at YSHS consistently win state awards for their video productions and many have gone on to careers in film and video production. He has also been instrumental in the success of many other independent films, most notably as co-producer of the independent feature film *Dreamcatcher* by local filmmaker Ed Radtke. Bognar has received numerous Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowships and Arts in Education artist residencies in schools around the state. He is an effective community activist, champion for children and ambassador for the arts across Ohio and beyond. Bognar is one of those rare individuals who is able to successfully combine his gifted artistry with his depth of understanding about humanity.

BUSINESS SUPPORT OF THE ARTS, Park National Bank, Newark

Park National Bank (PNB) truly exemplifies the caring corporate citizen. The Bank has been instrumental in the continuing success of all three major arts venues in Newark—the Midland Theatre, Newark Library and The Works—and others in the area, including Weathervane Playhouse and the newly-formed Newark-Granville Symphony Orchestra.. The Midland Theatre, a recently renovated historic theatre, opened in September 2002. In 2001 a capital campaign was launched to open, equip and endow the Midland Theatre. Park National Bank made a significant corporate contribution of \$250,000 and the senior leadership team all contributed generously bringing the total of PNB corporate and individual donations to more than \$500,000. David Trautman, PNB's President, co-chaired the campaign and Cheryl Snyder, Senior Vice President serves on the Newark Midland Theatre Association, Inc. Board of Directors as President. The Newark Public Library has been in existence since 1908 and opened a new multi-million dollar Main Library in February 2002. Significant contributions from PNB, both in revenue and volunteer time, helped to insure the overwhelming passage of the bond issue in 1997 which made the Library a reality and as a result has expanded its services into southern Licking County with the opening of a new branch in Buckeye Lake. The current President of the Board of Trustees of the Library is John Uible, a PNB vice-president and trust officer. The Works, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a museum and art center in downtown Newark also receives meaningful support from PNB. Like The Midland, The Works received significant contributions from PNB for their recent successful \$10 million capital campaign. The campaign chair was once again a Park National Bank officer and the pattern of outstanding corporate support continues with Chairman and CEO Dan DeLawder serving as the President of The Works' Board of Directors. This leadership from PNB has positioned the arts organizations so that they can grow to better meet the expanding information needs of the residents of Newark and Licking County. All local arts organizations enjoy the incredible talent at PNB and their giving spirit. One would be hard pressed to find a community event or organization that doesn't have Park National Bank funds or employees at the center of their effort.

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IRMA LAZARUS AWARD, Erich Kunzel, Cincinnati

Erich Kunzel has been Conductor of the Cincinnati Pops for nearly 30 years. And he has been a beloved part of the Cincinnati community since his first appearance in 1965 when he was invited by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra to conduct an 8 O'Clock Pops Concert at Music Hall. Under Kunzel's leadership the Pops program was so successful the CSO Board officially established the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra in 1977. Named Conductor of the Cincinnati Pops that same year, Maestro Kunzel is still the only person to hold that post. His popularity is extensive—some years ago, the Chicago Tribune dubbed him the “Prince of Pops” in recognition of his activity throughout the country. His credits include 80 Pops recordings on the Telarc label, 54 of which have appeared on the Billboard charts; four consecutive years as Billboard Magazine's Classical Crossover Artist of the Year; seven nationally televised Pops specials on PBS; numerous national and international appearances with the Pops. At one time, for an unprecedented six consecutive months, Cincinnati Pops recordings held each of the top five spots on the Billboard charts. And sales have been phenomenal—nearly 10 million recordings have been sold over the years. Pops recordings have been popular and have also received many awards, among them a Grammy Award; five additional Grammy nominations; and many others. Kunzel has led pops orchestras in many cities including Detroit, Indianapolis, and Toronto and has appeared in more than 100 performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia, where he holds the record for attendance - 22,000. Since 1991, he has led the National Symphony on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol in nationally televised Memorial Day and Fourth of July concerts. The 1996 July 4th concert drew a record crowd of nearly one million people, as well as the largest viewing audience for a musical event in PBS history. In October 2005, the Cincinnati Pops was the first Pops orchestra to tour China, performing in Beijing and Shanghai. For years, the free Concert in the Parks series in Cincinnati, conducted by Maestro Kunzel, brought music to the community. But Maestro Kunzel's impact extends far beyond his role with the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops. He has conducted the Cincinnati Opera, served on the faculty of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and has helped raise funds for the Cincinnati Zoo's CREW program. He is also Chairman of, and an active participant in, the Greater Cincinnati Arts & Education Center, an organization which soon will fulfill his personal dream to re-shape education for students interested in the arts by building America's first K-12 public arts school—Cincinnati's School for the Creative and Performing Arts near Music Hall. Erich Kunzel is an Ohio artist who not only has made a significant impact on his discipline statewide, nationally and internationally but has re-invented the pops genre and increased its popularity throughout the world. Through his engaging and welcoming personality, care for his community and his dedication to sharing his love of music he has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of Ohioans and people throughout the world.

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