



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nominations Sought for Governor's Awards for the Arts

Nominations are now being sought for the Governor's Awards for the Arts 2008, which will be presented by Governor Timothy M. Kaine in September. The Awards, which have been presented only three times in Virginia, recognize outstanding lifetime achievement by Virginia artists, arts organization and those who support and encourage the arts.

Maggie Guggenheimer of Piedmont Council of the Arts will serve as Area Coordinator for the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Greene and Louisa Counties.

The Governor's Awards are administered by the Virginians for the Arts Foundation and former First Lady of Virginia Jeannie Baliles is serving as the State Chair. "While the Governor's Awards spotlight the creative spirit throughout the Commonwealth, they also provide an opportunity to demonstrate how the arts contribute to the quality of life in our individual communities," said Guggenheimer. "The Central Virginia area is very rich in the cultural arts, and I am honored to be asked to serve on this important program that recognizes their significance."

Nominations may be made by anyone in the Commonwealth and must be sent or e-mailed to the Virginia Commission for the Arts no later than May 15, 2008. Forms are available online at www.arts.virginia.gov or at the Piedmont Council of the Arts, 300 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Charlottesville, VA. Nominees must be native Virginians or current residents; businesses and organizations must currently operate in the state.

A blue ribbon panel of judges will select 10 Award winners based upon the nomination materials. The panel will be asked to have diversity among the winners in artistic discipline and region of the state, and the winners will be announced August 1, 2008. An awards ceremony will be held at the Capitol in Richmond in September.

No public funds are involved in the Governor's Awards which are made possible through generous support from corporate sponsors including Dominion, Exxon/Mobil, Norfolk Southern, Philip Morris USA and Virginia Natural Gas.

For additional information, contact Maggie Guggenheimer, 434-971-2787 or director@charlottesvillearts.org or June Britt, State Coordinator of the Governor's Awards for the Arts, 434-385-0600 or june@brittmarketing.com

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