

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 15, 2006

CONTACT: Kim Newman, Public Relations
Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts
556 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738
865.436.5860x34; knewman@arrowmont.org
www.arrowmont.org

AREA LEGISLATORS THANKED AT SPECIAL RECEPTION

Gatlinburg, TN - Tennessee arts organization recently had the opportunity to thank area legislators during a special reception sponsored by Tennesseans for the Arts. The reception was held at the Arts and Culture Alliance in Knoxville in late August. The Tennessee Arts Commission announced the names of local grant recipients in July.

During the reception, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts was presented a check for \$50,500 by Senators Tim Burchett, Randy McNally and Jamie Woodson, for arts activities for Fiscal Year 2007.

In receiving the award, Arrowmont Executive Director David Willard, thanked the members of the General Assembly, and emphasized the contributions the Tennessee Arts Commission makes to the quality of life in Tennessee communities.

The Tennessee Arts Commission's matching grants are made possible through an appropriation of state funds by the General Assembly, federal dollars from the National Endowment for the Arts, and by Tennesseans who purchased specialty license plates.

"We thank our elected leaders for their leadership and support in helping the Tennessee Arts Commission build better communities through the arts. We are so grateful to Governor Bredesen and the General Assembly for recognizing the importance of the arts to all Tennesseans," said Stephanie B. Conner, chair of the Tennessee Arts Commission.

According to Conner, the Commission will award over 850 grants during Fiscal Year 2007, totaling more than \$5.8 million dollars. These funds have a direct impact on communities across Tennessee, in both urban and rural areas. Grant categories include: Arts Build Communities, Arts: Advancement and Expansion, Arts in Education, Arts Project Support, General Operating Support, Individual Artist Fellowships, Major Cultural Institutions, Rural Arts Project Support, Student Ticket Subsidy, Technical Assistance, Touring, Special Opportunities, and Professional Artist Support.

The Commission's allocation process involves a review by citizen advisory panels made up of Tennesseans with expertise in appropriate arts disciplines and a review by the full 15-member Tennessee Arts Commission.

The Tennessee Arts Commission is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to ensure the citizens of Tennessee have access to and participate in the arts.

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Photo caption:
Back Row: Sen. Tim Burchett; Sen. Randy McNally; Sen. Jamie Woodson; Kim Wood McClamroch, Commission member, Tennessee Arts Commission; Stephanie Conner, chair of the Tennessee Arts Commission; Donna Chase, Commission member, Tennessee Arts

Commission

Front Row: Coleen Thomason, director of development Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts; David Willard, executive director, Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts; Dennis Adkins communications director, Tennessee Arts Commission