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HYDE PARK ART CENTER

75 YEARS
OF MAKING CHICAGO'S
ART HAPPEN

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**HYDE PARK ART CENTER COMMEMORATES 75 YEARS OF ADVANCING
CONTEMPORARY ART IN CHICAGO AT ANNIVERSARY GALA NOVEMBER 21**

Honorees Include Arts Leaders Ellen Aberding, The Joyce Foundation; Cheryl Lynn Bruce & Kerry James Marshall; Bette Cerf Hill & Bruce Sagan; Amy Rule; and Chuck Thurow



CHICAGO – **Hyde Park Art Center's 75th Anniversary Gala** will celebrate the Art Center's illustrious past, its vibrant present and bright future, while highlighting exemplary individuals who have made meaningful contributions to Chicago's cultural community. The 75th Anniversary Gala will bring together 500 people in support of the nonprofit organization, which fosters creativity through: ground breaking exhibitions; international and local artist residencies; studio art classes for all ages and skill levels; professional development opportunities for artists; arts education outreach in south side public schools; and

ongoing free public events like artist talks and family art-making days. The funds raised through the event allows the Art Center to sustain these programs and remain free and open to the public seven days a week, welcoming more than 45,000 artists, collectors, families, students and youth every year.

The Hyde Park Art Center's 75th Anniversary Gala will be held November 21, 2014 at 7p.m. at Bridgeport Art Center's Skyline Lofts, 1200 W 35th St, Chicago. The evening will begin with a cocktail hour, followed by a sumptuous dinner and remarks from Executive Director Kate Lorenz and the honorees. There will also be an opportunity for guests to enter a raffle to win an all-inclusive Mexican art adventure. Gala tables can be reserved starting at \$5,000 and individual tickets starting at \$500. For reservations or more information, visit www.hydparkart.org.

"This year's gala is a time to celebrate a milestone anniversary for the Hyde Park Art Center, and to pay tribute to many of the individuals that make our organization, and the larger Chicago arts community, a prolific incubator for creative risk-taking," said Executive Director **Kate Lorenz**.

The gala is co-chaired by **Walter Massey**, the President of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his wife **Shirley Massey**; **Sylvia Neil** and **Daniel Fischel** of the University of Chicago Law School; and investment professionals **Laura Van Peenan** of William Blair and **Louis Conforti** of Colony Capital.

In recognition of this milestone celebration, this year the Art Center is honoring a diverse group of Chicagoans who exemplify the characteristics required to ensure Chicago continues to nurture a vibrant cultural community and remains a place where organizations like the Hyde Park Art Center can thrive. Each will be honored in a category that defines his or her work.

- **Amy Rule** - Cultural Advocate: An active advocate for the arts and arts education in Chicago;
- **Ellen Alberding, The Joyce Foundation** - Cultural Investor: An institution that has made transformational investments in Chicago's cultural sector;
- **Bruce Sagan and Bette Cerf-Hill** - Cultural Leaders: Someone who has provided steadfast leadership in Chicago's cultural sector;
- **Chuck Thurow** - Cultural Visionary: Someone whose foresight and responsiveness has advanced Chicago's cultural sector; and,
- **Kerry James Marshall and Cheryl Lynn Bruce** - Game-Changing Artists: Venerable Chicago artists who have been forward-thinking, experimental, and impactful in their fields.

Past Honorees include Charles Benton, Lindy Bergman, Dawoud Bey, Anita Blanchard and Martin Nesbitt, Bruce and Martha Clinton, Barbara Crane, Becky D'Angelo, Helyn Goldenberg, Christie Hefner, Ruth Horwich, Deone Jackman, Valerie Jarrett, Chris Kennedy, Eric and Cheryl McKissack, Isobel Neal and Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle.

About the Honorees

Amy Rule is a passionate advocate for the arts and arts education in Chicago, providing tremendous support for Chicago's cultural sector through her professional and volunteer work. Rule's dedication to building a vibrant and culturally rich community is demonstrated by her involvement on the boards of numerous cultural institutions and her weekly volunteer work at multiple youth and civic organizations, including founding and chairing the Chicago Urban Alliance – a high school internship program for undeserved Chicago Public School students.

Ellen Alberding is president and a board member of the Joyce Foundation, which supports the development of policies that both improve the quality of life for people in the Great Lakes region and serve as models for the rest of the country. As one of the largest foundation supporters of arts in the region, the Joyce Foundation works to make art accessible to diverse audiences while investing in projects by artists of color to develop the Midwest's creative capital and catalyze community engagement. Its commitment to diversity is unmatched, and the foundation has been instrumental in the Hyde Park Art Center's efforts to reach new and diverse audiences and artists.

Bruce Sagan has owned, operated and printed several Chicago area newspapers including the *Southtown Economist* and the *Hyde Park Herald*, which he still owns and has been publishing for 58 years. He is an active real estate investor and serves on multiple boards and committees that enrich Chicago's cultural and civic life. **Bette Cerf Hill** is a painter, poet and community activist involved in numerous cultural and civic organizations whose work has been featured at

the Hyde Park Art Center. She helped found organizations and institutions that better Chicago, including the Printers Row Lit Fest, the largest free outdoor literary event in the Midwest. The couple is deeply rooted in Hyde Park: they are longtime supporters of the Art Center and were instrumental in moving the Art Center to its current location. Their commitment was recognized in naming the Sagan Hill Ceramics Studio in 2006 at the Hyde Park Art Center.

Chuck Thurow is a curator, collector and champion of Chicago's art and artists, with more than 30 years of experience curating and working with the Chicago arts community. As Executive Director of the Hyde Park Art Center from 1998-2009, he led the visioning, fundraising and construction of the Art Center's current facility, which opened in 2006. The result of his vision is a new type of arts venue that breaks down the disparity between a place that displays and supports experimental art and a community-based art center where city residents find an inclusive and welcoming community.

Kerry James Marshall is a Chicago-based artist known for large-scale paintings, sculptures and other objects that take African-American life and history as their subject matter. A South Side resident, Marshall has been involved with the Hyde Park Art Center as an exhibiting artist and supporter for more than a decade. Born and raised in Chicago, **Cheryl Lynn Bruce** is a stage, film and television actor who has received recognition both for her artistic and civic contributions. She has acted on many of the nation's most prominent stages while also working as a writer, director and educator. The couple is a great asset to Chicago – though they have both received national recognition and had opportunities to work around the country, their decision to live and work in Chicago demonstrates their dedication to the city's arts community.

About the Hyde Park Art Center

Founded in 1939, the Hyde Park Art Center's story begins during the Great Depression, a time when artists and the arts were seen as integral to healing the nation. The Art Center's first Executive Director, noted painter Harold Hayden, set the tone when he declared: "Art should be found where people work and live." The Art Center's legacy includes launching artists' careers, fostering new artistic movements, and providing socially adept arts education programming. The most internationally recognized artistic style to come out of Chicago, The Imagist Movement, emerged from artists exhibiting at the Art Center during the 1960s and 1970s. In recent years, this tradition has continued through presenting solo exhibitions of artists including Juan Angel Chavez, Theaster Gates, and Kelly Kaczinski.

Remaining true to its roots, the Art Center combines two different elements of its personality: it is Chicago's oldest alternative exhibition space for showcasing boundary-pushing contemporary art, while also maintaining the welcoming and accessible nature of a community-based art organization. In 2014, during the Art Center's 75th year, a generous gift from **Julie and John Guida** was announced to help support **The Guida Family Creative Wing**, a reimagined space within the Art Center. The Guida Family Creative Wing will house expanded artistic and educational resources including collaborative artist studios, a flexible learning environment for youth and adult education programs, the Thurow Digital Lab, and The Jackman Goldwasser Residency. The Guida Family Creative Wing is just one reminder of the constant presence of dedicated individuals who recognize and value the Art Center's mission.

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Hyde Park Art Center is a unique resource that advances contemporary visual art in Chicago by connecting artists and communities in unexpected ways. As an open forum for exploring the artistic process, the Art Center fosters creativity through making, learning about, seeing, and discussing art—all under one roof. The Art Center is funded in part by: Alphawood Foundation; Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Field Foundation of Illinois; Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts; Harper Court Arts Council; Harpo Foundation; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Illinois Humanities Council; Irving Harris Foundation; Joyce Foundation; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; National Endowment for the Arts; National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly; Polk Bros. Foundation; David C and Sarajeon Ruttenberg Arts Foundation; Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust; and the generosity of its members and people like you.