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**Maryland Citizens for the Arts adds new Trustees**

**\*\*\* Press Release – 7/6/2010 \*\*\***

The Board of Trustees of Maryland Citizens for the Arts is pleased to announce the appointment of four new board members. At its June 2010 meeting, the Board elected Jose Dominquez, Blake Robison, Darcey Schoeninger and Andy Vick. These new trustees represent Western, Central and Eastern Maryland.

Jose Dominquez is Executive Director of the Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Silver Spring, MD. He is a veteran of the area's nonprofit community and brings more than 15 years of experience in nonprofit management and youth program development to the position. Mr. Dominguez has managed grants at the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation and was the founder of the DC Hip Hop Theatre Festival at the DC Arts Commission.

Blake Robison is in his fifth season as Producing Artistic Director of Round House Theatre. Since his arrival he has launched the company's Literary Works Project, re-envisioned its educational programming, created RHT's artists laboratory "The Kitchen," and commissioned new works from some of the country's most exciting up and coming playwrights. Previously Mr. Robison has held leadership positions at The Clarence Brown Theatre, National Shakespeare Company and Vermont Stage Company.

Darcey Schoeninger has been the Executive Director of the Queen Anne's County Arts Council since 1996. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park with a degree in Cultural Anthropology. Ms. Schoeninger has worked with the Maryland State Arts Council as a peer review panelist for the Community Arts Development program and served on the Governor's Art Salute panel twice. She currently serves on the boards of the Maryland Humanities Council, Maryland Life Magazine and is President-Elect of County Arts Alliance of Maryland.

Andy Vick has been the Executive Director of the Allegany Arts Council since 2003. Andy's background is in marketing and human resources where he spent many years working with various businesses in Washington, DC. Mr. Vick is Chairman of the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority (the State of Maryland's first certified heritage area.) He also serves on the Maryland Tourism Development Board, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is a past President of the

Rotary Club of Cumberland. Mr. Vick is the co-Coordinator for the Arts & Entertainment Districts in Downtown Cumberland and Downtown Frostburg.

“We are excited to have added such great leaders to our already strong Board of Trustees” said Doug Mann, Chairman of the Board of MCA. “With these newly elected members we are reaching further across the state to ensure that all artists and all arts organizations, from the eastern shore to our western border, heavily involved in our efforts to connect our community and convey our message to elected officials about the importance of a strong arts sector in Maryland.”

At the same meeting, MCA appointed its first Trustee Emeritus, giving the honor to long serving Board Member and Arts Advocate, George Johnston. Mr. Johnston served on the MCA Board for 20 years in extraordinary fashion. Mr. Johnston was involved in all aspects of the organization including overseeing staff and finances, fundraising, meeting with legislators and providing testimony. Mr. Johnson shared his legal expertise on a pro bono basis during his long tenure.

### **Maryland Citizens for the Arts**

Maryland Citizens for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission it is to increase public recognition and support of the Arts and the role they play in the education of children, quality of life, and economic vitality of Maryland. MCA achieves this goal by advocating for the arts across the state and by promoting adequate public funding at the local, state and federal levels.

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