

Contact: Andrea Robinson, 816.994.9232

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ArtsKC Announces Chairmen and Featured Artists for
2016 ArtsKC Awards Luncheon**

(Kansas City, MO) — ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce Terry and Zulema Bassham as Honorary Chairs for the 13th Annual ArtsKC Awards Luncheon to be held on February 25th, 2016 at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom. Event Co-Chairs Rachel Merlo and Dale Trott are leading this effort with a bold move to a new location, on a new date, and featuring new award categories to align with ArtsKC’s strategic focus to support, promote and advocate for the arts.

“We are honored to support the arts and showcase the work of the distinguished award nominees that contribute to making Kansas City a community that we are proud to call home,” shares Terry Bassham, KCP&L CEO. He adds, “Zulema and I are looking forward to celebrating with our business, civic and arts leaders early next year.”

“Our event theme this year is *amplify*, and we are committed to filling our larger venue with diverse performances and an art-infused program,” states Rachel Merlo, Google Community Impact Manager.

ArtsKC has selected Holly Ann Schenk and Jeffery C. Porter to be the featured artists for the event. Their collaborative work will be the focus of a pre-event exhibition. They will create unique works of art to be presented as awards to local businesses and individuals honored at the event for exemplary leadership in the arts. Schenk and Porter will also create coordinating table décor for the luncheon.

Schenk received her MAEd from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She was an art director at Hallmark Cards for many years, and teaches art to students of all ages and skill levels. Her current passion is painting, especially with acrylics and pastels.

Porter is the owner of Furniture Solutions, LLC in North Kansas City, MO. His extensive background in furniture design, restoration and repair has enabled him to produce modern wood-based sculptures of unique and enduring character.

“Ultimately the ArtsKC Awards Luncheon is a celebration of the broad and robust arts community in the region. Anyone who hasn’t been to this luncheon is missing an opportunity connect with the people who bring us creativity and innovation across disciplines,” adds Dale Trott, ArtsKC Board Member and event Co-Chair.

For additional information about the ArtsKC Awards Luncheon or to purchase tickets visit artskc.org/awards. For more information about the featured artists visit hollyannschenk.com and kcfurnitureolutions.com.

About ArtsKC – Regional Arts Council: The mission of ArtsKC is to unleash the power of the arts. www.artskc.org

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