



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Allegan County Community Foundation
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Allegan County Keep YOUR ArtsAlive! Competition Launched on June 3rd!

ALLEGAN COUNTY - The Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) is spearheading a unique opportunity called *Keep Your ArtsAlive!* for non-profit arts and culture organizations in Allegan County. The competition will be launched with a media conference on June 3rd, 2010, at 12:30pm on at the ACCF Offices at 524 Marshall Street , Allegan, MI 49010.

Keep Your ArtsAlive! is a competition that allows all Allegan County residents to declare their desire to keep their arts alive. Voting for their favorite arts or cultural non-profit organization allows the organizations to compete for the highest number of votes. Votes cost \$1 each and supporters can vote as much as they like, for as many as they like, as often as they like. The competition will culminate with a bash event on September 24, 2010, where the five organizations that receive the highest number of votes will be announced, and they will share in an equal division of the remaining proceeds!

You are invited to this media conference launch event on June 3rd, and will be joining the seventeen (17) of the ArtsAlive! participating organizations, ACCF Board Trustees, and other county dignitaries. Come help us launch *Keep Your ArtsAlive! Allegan County!* The public is also welcomed.

The last two years we have seen the struggles the non-profit food pantries and homeless prevention organizations have endured. But the struggle of the Arts &

Cultural non-profits has remained invisible. Many arts and culture organizations have seen funding diminish by as much as 90%. It has become commonplace to reduce staff size, reduce hours and eliminate pay for executive directors. With such dire circumstances it is imperative that these organizations receive financial support before they are forced to close their doors for good.

For more information, please check our website at www.artsaliveallegancounty.org or contact Theresa Bray (see contact information above).

Non-Profit ArtsAlive! Participant	Contact Person	Contact Email	Website
Children's Museum of Fennville	Mary Kasprzyk	mary.k@fennvillechildren.org	www.fennvillechildren.org
Mason Street Warehouse	Ricki Levine	ricki@masonstreetwarehouse.org	www.masonstreetwarehouse.org
City of Allegan - Regent Theatre	Vicki Knuckles	victoryknuckles@yahoo.com	www.cityofallegan.org/regent.php
Allegan Area Arts Council	Linda Clark	tcandlc7@yahoo.com	www.alleganarts.com
Mid-Lakes Chorus - Sweet Adelines	Cynthia Hunt	cjhunt@chartermi.net	www.midlakessweetadelines.org
Otsego District Library	Ryan Weiber	rwieber@otsegolibrary.org	www.otsegolibrary.org
Allegan District Library	Ann Perrigo	aperrigo@alleganlibrary.org	www.alleganlibrary.org
Ransom District Library	Katie Bell Moore	kbmoore@ransomlibrary.org	www.ransomlibrary.org
Waterfront Film Festival	Dori DePree	dori@waterfrontfilm.org	www.waterfrontfilmfestival.org
Otsego Area Historical Society	Lyneta Nowak	nowak.l@sbcglobal.net	www.otsegohistory.org
Plainwell Music Society	Lee Derksen	ldmusic7297@yahoo.com	NA
Saugatuck Douglas Library	Martha Boetcher	mboetcher@llcoop.org	www.sdlibrary.org
Saugatuck Center for the Arts	Kristin Armstrong	kristin@sc4a.org	www.sc4a.org
Leighton Township Library	Sharon Galligan	molli@llcoop.org	www.leightonlibrary.org
Dorr Township Library	Suanne Wierenga	dorsw@llcoop.org	www.dorrlibrary.org
Allegan County Historical Society	Carol Garafola	carolbea@charter.net	www.allegancountyhistoricalmus
Plainwell Arts Council	Cathy Green	greeneses@mei.net	www.plainwellartscouncil.webs.c

Photos:

Two participants, Lee Derksen, Plainwell Music Society, and Erin Marsh, Ransom District Library / Plainwell



Participants and members of media at launch event



Carol Garafola, Allegan County Historical Society, picking up all her promotional materials for the ArtsAlive! Competition



ACCF Board President, Paula Baker, sharing information on the reasoning for the boards support of the ArtsAlive! Competition

