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CITY OF DALLAS OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS *ARTS IN CRISIS: A KENNEDY CENTER INITIATIVE*

KENNEDY CENTER PRESIDENT, MICHAEL M. KAISER, TO LEAD ARTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AT LATINO CULTURAL CENTER

DALLAS, TX – The City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs proudly presents *Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative* featuring John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts President, Michael M. Kaiser, on Monday, November 30, 2009 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, located at 2600 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204. Mr. Kaiser's visit to Dallas is part of a national tour that takes him to all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to lead arts management symposia. Mr. Kaiser will be interviewed by KERA Art&Seek Reporter and Producer, Jerome Weeks, and will address the challenges facing non-profit performing arts organizations through such areas as fundraising, building more effective Boards of Trustees, budgeting, and marketing. The symposium is free and open to all North Texas non-profit 501(c)(3) arts organizations; however, tickets are limited. To reserve tickets, please visit <http://artsincrisisdallas.eventbrite.com>.

“Dallas is currently experiencing tremendous and exciting cultural growth, as can be seen through the recent expansion of the Downtown Dallas Arts District and the crowds of area residents that shared in the celebration, but that doesn't mean we are without challenges. The current economic climate has affected arts and cultural organizations of all sizes throughout the North Texas region. We need to work individually and as a cultural community to face our challenges, strengthen our offerings, and ensure there is reason to celebrate in the future. We are pleased to host Mr. Kaiser and allow him to share his valuable insights and expertise and assist us with these efforts,” said Maria Munoz-Blanco, Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs.

Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative is a response to the emergency facing arts organizations throughout the United States. The program, open to non-profit 501(c)(3) performing arts organizations, provides free and confidential planning assistance in areas pertinent to maintaining a vital performing arts organization during a troubled economy. “Each locality is dealing with its own unique and specific challenges, and there is no better way to understand each region than through in-person visits. Communicating in person allows us to be more effective in advising organizations in need,” said Mr. Kaiser.

The program is currently working with more than 450 organizations in 40 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Over 100 experienced arts leaders from across the country are volunteering their time to serve as mentors to organizations in need.

Michael M. Kaiser has been President of the Kennedy Center since January 2001. He has expanded the educational and artistic programming for the nation's center for the performing arts, has overseen a major renovation effort of most of the Center's theaters and along with his executive staff has shaped numerous arts leaders through the Kennedy Center Institute for Arts Management. The Institute provides a wide variety of training and support for arts management, including a capacity building program for culturally specific arts organizations; a program to train board members of arts organizations throughout the United States; international capacity building programs for arts organizations in 60 nations; a capacity building program for over 280 arts organizations in New York City; and artsmanager.org, an interactive web resource for arts management professionals. The Kennedy Center also offers internship and fellowship programs, exposing arts professionals to various facets of arts management.

In February 2009, Michael Kaiser created *Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative*, a program to provide free arts management consulting to non-profit performing arts organizations around the United States. *Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative* is funded by Helen Lee Henderson and Adrienne Arsht. For more information on this program, please visit www.artsincrisis.org.

The City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) works to enhance the vitality of the City and the quality of life for all Dallas citizens by creating an environment wherein arts and cultural organizations can thrive so that people of all ages can enjoy opportunities for creative expressions and the celebration of our community's multicultural heritage. Our mission is to establish a cultural system that ensures that ALL Dallas citizens and visitors have an opportunity to experience the finest in arts and culture. The OCA is advised by an 18-member Cultural Affairs Commission appointed by the Dallas City Council. The OCA manages the city's Cultural Contracts, Neighborhood Touring and Public Art Programs; oversees six cultural centers including the Bath House Cultural Center, Latino Cultural Center, Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Oak Cliff Cultural Center (opening in 2010), and South Dallas Cultural Center; and operates the city's classical music radio station, WRR101.1FM. More information on the programs and services provided by the OCA can be found at www.dallasculture.org.

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