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BCF celebrates vibrant arts scene with sprinkling of “confetti grants”

(Baltimore, MD, 12/29/09) The Baltimore Community Foundation recently announced \$30,400 in small grants to 15 arts organizations in Baltimore City. The “confetti grants” of \$2,000 each were awarded to local arts groups that, though small, have made significant contributions to Baltimore’s vibrant arts and cultural scene in 2009.

“These grants represent BCF’s excitement about the role of the arts in helping Baltimore support a growing economy where all have the opportunity to thrive,” noted BCF President and CEO Tom Wilcox. “Many American cities have rebounded on the strength of a dynamic, emerging arts scene, and BCF is proud to celebrate and encourage the young and emerging arts professionals whose entrepreneurial and transformative work is an important asset to Baltimore.”

The \$2,000 “confetti grants” were awarded not only to celebrate the small arts groups that have helped enrich Baltimore’s exciting arts and cultural scene, but also to encourage these artists to continue to share their creative work with each other and attract new artists and audiences to their performances and exhibitions. The innovative, quirky, and inspired work supported by the grants includes musical performances, nonprofit theater productions, speaker series, art galleries, and exhibition and performance spaces. Applications for the grants were not solicited.

BCF’s 2009 “Confetti grant” recipients include:

American Opera Theater - \$2,000

The AOT specializes in presenting innovative and challenging productions of forgotten works, as

well as in redefining traditional favorites through a contemporary musical and visual aesthetic.

American Studio Orchestra - \$2,000

The ASO works to redefine the orchestra experience for its audiences by performing all types of music and incorporating a wide range of media into its performances, including the work of musicians, composers, filmmakers, photographers, sculptors, dancers, painters, and videographers.

Annex Theatre - \$2,000

This DIY nonprofit theatre located in a warehouse space in Greenmount West presents a host of plays, some produced and directed by its own ensemble and others by groups such as The Missoula Oblongata, Wham City, and Bedlam Theatre.

Area 405 - \$2,000

Area 405 produces, presents, and promotes arts and cultural programming of artists from Baltimore and the Mid-Atlantic. Located in an artist-owned live/work warehouse space in Station North, the venue offers lectures, screenings, artist talks, as well as the occasional dance and musical venture.

Design Conversations - \$2,000

A monthly series of conversations arranged loosely around a topic for people interested in discussing design and architecture in Baltimore.

Floristree - \$2,000

This active performance space in the H & H Building in downtown Baltimore offers a venue primarily for music, but also for the occasional theatrical production.

Gallery Four - \$2,000

Located in the H & H Building downtown, this gallery presents visual artists from Baltimore and beyond, generally in group exhibitions arranged by theme.

The Hexagon - \$2,000

A volunteer-run art and performance space located in Station North, the Hexagon features performances by Baltimore bands and well as works by visual artists.

Ignite Baltimore - \$2,000

At every Ignite event, 16 artists, technologists, thinkers, and personalities take the stage to answer this challenge: “5 minutes, 20 slides. What would you say?” Ignite’s goal is to spark new conversations and collaborations across cultures and disciplines.

LOF/t at the Load of Fun - \$2,000

A white box gallery with a large black box space, this venue houses a wide range of programming including visual arts, music, theater, and readings.

Metro Gallery - \$2,000

A multi-use space located across the street from the Charles Theater, the gallery's self-described portfolio offers "Art/Film/Music/Bar," often all at once.

Mobtown Modern - \$2,000

In partnership with the Contemporary Museum, Mobtown Modern creates a new type of listening experience for composed music by integrating classical instruments, DJ-style electronics, strong visual elements, and a lounge environment into each performance.

Nudashank - \$2,000

A new independent, artist-run gallery space that showcases young artists from around the region and provides a venue for national and international artwork.

Single Carrot Theatre - \$2,000

A small, off-beat, nonprofit theater company that performs at Load of Fun Studios in Station North.

2010 Second Saturdays Series - \$2,400

Station North's monthly series of free events serves to heighten awareness, interaction, and appreciation among Baltimore's art and music communities and promote the Station North district as a cultural destination.

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Baltimore Community Foundation distributed \$28 million in 2008 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. With assets of \$143 million, BCF comprises more than 600 different charitable funds.

BCF invites donors to **Invest in Baltimore** through its civic agenda, which combines economic development with poverty reduction by making strategic investments in the areas of human services, youth, education, transportation, neighborhoods, diversity, environment, arts and culture, and promoting Baltimore.

BCF helps individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goal of improving the quality of life in the greater Baltimore region, today and for generations to come. To donors, BCF offers a complete toolkit for charitable giving, expert assistance in learning more about the causes they care about, and the opportunity to join others with similar interests to learn and give together. To the community at large, BCF offers a permanent, growing source of grant monies, as well as a common meeting ground and leadership on important issues in our region.

In addition, BCF provides grantmaking oversight for two independent foundations, the William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund and the Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation.

More information about **Invest in Baltimore** as well as support for individual donors' philanthropy and more can be found at www.bcf.org.

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