

For immediate release

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ARTS DAY 2012 | March 14, 2012

Advocates will speak up for the arts, arts education and creative economy to benefit Wisconsin's people, businesses and communities

Register today at www.artswisconsin.org/events/artsdays.cfm

Wisconsinites from the worlds of the arts, business, education, civic issues, politics, and government will meet and rally with Wisconsin's political leadership at Arts Day 2012, taking place on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center and the State Capitol in downtown Madison.

This is a critical moment for Wisconsin to support new investment in creativity, innovation, imagination and entrepreneurship. New pathways are needed to move the state's economy, educational systems, and civic infrastructure forward. That's where the arts come in.



People who care about Wisconsin's future must speak up to make sure that elected officials and civic leaders know that *the arts are part of the solution*. The evidence is clear: participation and involvement in the arts, arts education and creative economy are important to the people of Wisconsin. **Investment in Wisconsin's arts and creative sector is all about investment in good jobs, good education, and livable communities, and is directly tied to helping the state and all of its communities thrive.**

Arts Day 2012 will feature:

- The **Arts Legislative Breakfast**, 8:30-10 am at Monona Terrace. Keynote speaker Ra Joy, Executive Director, Arts Alliance Illinois, one of the premier statewide advocacy organizations in the nation. Mr. Joy is an artist and arts advocate with extensive experience in public policy and the congressional arena. Barbara Lawton, Chair of the Wisconsin Arts Board and former Wisconsin Lt. Governor, will also speak at the Breakfast.
- Workshops and discussions on creative placemaking, promotion for the arts, and more
- Constituent meetings with legislators and administration officials
- A free public concert in the Capitol Rotunda (group TBA), 12 noon, sponsored by the Wis. Music Educators Association.

"Wisconsin's diverse and active arts industry will come together on Arts Day to demonstrate the power and value of the arts to the state's future," says Debra Karp, Arts Wisconsin Board President. "Arts Day 2012 and ongoing advocacy statewide are essential this year, to help Wisconsin seize opportunities and move forward in partnership with decision-makers. Expanding participation and investment in the arts, education, and creative economy is part of the solution for Wisconsin, its people and its communities."

Arts Day sponsoring partners currently include American Institute of Architects (AIA) Wisconsin; Arts Wisconsin; Association of Wisconsin Symphony Orchestras; Broadjam, Inc., Madison, Footlights, Inc., Milwaukee; PortalWisconsin.org; Ward-Brodt Music, Madison; Wisconsin Art Education Association; Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Wisconsin Music Educators Association; Wisconsin Regional Writers Association; Wisconsin School Music Association, Wisconsin Foundation for Music Education, Wisconsin Presenters Network; Wisconsin Visual Artists.

Endorsing partners are Arts @ Large, Leadership Wisconsin, Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation, Theatre Wisconsin, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, Wisconsin Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus; Wisconsin Dance Council; Wisconsin Downtown Action Council; Wisconsin Foundation for the Arts; Wisconsin Nonprofits Association, Wisconsin PTA, and Wisconsin Rural Partners.

Register today and get the latest information at www.artswisconsin.org/events/artsdays.cfm.

For more information about Arts Day and Wisconsin's amazing arts and creative sector, contact Arts Wisconsin, 608 255 8316 | akatz@artswisconsin.org | www.artswisconsin.org.