



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ST. LOUIS ARTS AWARDS 2008 HONOREES

St. Louis, MO / October 23, 2007 - The Arts and Education Council is happy to announce the 2008 St. Louis Arts Awards Honorees. The St. Louis Arts Awards have been presented since 1992 to honor groups and individuals who are integral to the success of the arts in our community and make St. Louis a unique arts community. Awards are given in five categories: Corporate Support of the Arts, Excellence in the Arts, Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, Excellence in Philanthropy and Art Educator of the Year. This year's honorees are especially representative of the diversity and variety of the arts in St. Louis.

### The 2008 Honorees

#### Lifetime Achievement in the Arts

**GYO OBATA** – A world-renown architect whose career in architectural design has spanned the globe over 50 years

#### Excellence in Philanthropy

**MARY ANN LEE** – An enthusiastic and committed board member and supporter of numerous arts organizations

#### Excellence in the Arts

**IVOR DAVID BALDING** – The founder and artistic director of Circus Flora, St. Louis' very own "theater under a big-top tent"

**GERALD EARLY** – A noted essayist and American culture critic, Mr. Early is the Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters at Washington University

**STAGES ST. LOUIS** – A professional musical theatre company dedicated to performance and devoted to education and outreach through its *Performing Arts Academy* and *Access the Arts* program

#### Corporate Support of the Arts

**THOMPSON COBURN LLP** – A law firm dedicated to the support of the arts through volunteerism and philanthropy

#### Art Educator of the Year.

**LINDA PACKARD** – An art teacher at Reed Elementary School in the Ladue School District

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual St. Louis Arts Awards celebration will be held on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in The Khorassan Room of The Chase Park Plaza at 6:00 pm. Event Chairs this year are **Cary Hobbs**, Senior VP–Strategy & Business Implementation at Centene Corporation and **Bill Donius**, Chairman and CEO of Pulaski Bank. For reservations or sponsorships opportunities, please contact the Arts and Education Council at 314-289-4004 or visit [www.KeepArtsHappening.org](http://www.KeepArtsHappening.org).

The Arts and Education Council enriches the vibrancy of the St. Louis community by investing in arts organizations and growing the base of local arts supporters. Since 1963, the Arts and Education Council has raised nearly \$95 million in support of local arts, arts education and outreach programs.

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