



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 30, 2009

UPDATED: January 6, 2010

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Announces the
Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative
50 State Tour**

**President Michael M. Kaiser to Travel to all 50 States,
Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., to Assist Organizations in Need**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is taking part in a national tour for *Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative*. Kennedy Center President, Michael M. Kaiser travels to all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to lead arts management symposia. At each event, hosted by a local arts organization, Kaiser will address the challenges facing non-profit performing arts organizations today through such areas as fundraising, building more effective Boards of Trustees, budgeting, and marketing.

Since the initiative's launch in February 2009, the Kennedy Center has hosted symposia and arts community conversations in major cities across the country, including Boston, Chicago, San Diego, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Baltimore, Detroit, Cleveland, New York City, Indianapolis, Louisville, Nashville, Charlotte, Seattle, Grand Rapids, St. Louis, Kansas City, Houston, Dallas, Orlando, Miami, and Washington, D.C. Upcoming tour dates will include 35 cities in 31 states, including Honolulu, San Juan, Atlanta, Bismarck, Phoenix, Santa Fe, Albany, Lincoln, Pierre, Portland, Anchorage, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Boise to extend his arts management expertise and personal support throughout the nation. A complete listing may be found on the following page.

"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," said Kaiser. "Communicating in person allows us to be more effective in advising organizations in need."

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. The program is currently working with almost 500 organizations in 40 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. More than 120 experienced arts leaders from across the country are volunteering their time to serve as mentors to organizations in need.

A list of upcoming *Arts in Crisis* symposia is below. Additional dates will be announced on www.artsincrisis.org in the coming weeks.

Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative 50 State Tour

DATES FOR 2009:

March 18	Boston, MA	New College Theatre
April 3	Chicago, IL	Goodman Theatre
April 10	Washington, DC	The Kennedy Center
April 27	San Diego, CA	Joe and Vi Jacobs Center
May 6	Philadelphia, PA	The Performance Garage
May 11	San Francisco, CA	The Commonwealth Club
May 12	Sacramento, CA	Jean Runyon Little Theater
May 21	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore Museum of Art
June 25	Detroit, MI	Max M. Fisher Music Center
July 14	New York, NY	The Desmond Tutu Center
July 22	Cleveland, OH	The Hanna Building at PlayhouseSquare
July 23	Kalamazoo, MI	Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites
August 11	Indianapolis, IN	Clowes Memorial Hall, Butler University
August 12	Louisville, KY	Actors Theatre of Louisville
August 12	Lexington, KY	ArtsPlace
August 13	Nashville, TN	Nashville Children's Theatre
August 14	Charlotte, NC	Booth Playhouse, The Blumenthal Center
August 18	Richmond, VA	Richmond Marriott Downtown
August 20	Seattle, WA	Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall
August 21	Tacoma, WA	Pantages Theatre Lobby
August 24	Madison, WI	Overture Center for the Arts, Capitol Theatre
August 25	St. Paul, MN	Ordway Center for the Arts, McKnight Theatre

September 30	Grand Rapid, MI	Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
October 8	Los Angeles, CA	California African American Museum
October 14	Tulsa, OK	Studio K, Kivisto Hall
November 17	St. Louis, MO	The Sheldon Concert Hall
November 18	Kansas City, MO	Lyric Theatre
November 19	Wichita, KS	Mary Jane Teall Theater, Century II
November 20	Des Moines, IA	The Temple for Performing Arts
November 30	Dallas, TX	Latino Cultural Center
December 1	Houston, TX	Moores Opera House, University of Houston
December 2	San Antonio, TX	San Pedro Playhouse
December 9	Orlando, FL	Crown Plaza Downtown
December 10	Miami, FL	Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts
December 16	Honolulu, HI	Mission Memorial Auditorium
December 17	Maui, HI	Maui Arts and Cultural Center

DATES FOR 2010:

January 21	Meridian, MS	MSU Riley Center
January 22	Birmingham, AL	Birmingham Children's Theatre
February 2	New Orleans, LA	Le Petit Theatre
February 5	San Juan, PR	El Museo de Arte Theatre
February 23	Charleston, SC	Simons Center for the Arts, College of Charleston
February 24	Atlanta, GA	Ferst Center for the Arts
March 16	Wilmington, DE	Baby Grand
March 17	Newark, NJ	Venue TBA
March 17	Princeton, NJ	Venue TBA
March 29	Billings, MT	Alberta Bair Theater
March 30	Bismarck, ND	North Dakota Heritage Center
April 7	Charleston, WV	Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences
April 12	Phoenix, AZ	Venue TBA
April 12	Tucson, AZ	Venue TBA
April 13	Santa Fe, NM	Venue TBA
April 21	Pittsburgh, PA	Venue TBA

April 27	Albany, NY	Venue TBA
May 5	Lincoln, NE	Lied Center for the Performing Arts
May 6	Pierre, SD	Venue TBA
May 13	Portland, OR	Venue TBA
May 14	Las Vegas, NV	Smith Center for the Performing Arts
May 20	Anchorage, AK	Venue TBA
June 10	Hartford, CT	St. Joseph Center for the Performing Arts – The Carol Autorino Center
June 10	New Haven, CT	Yale University Art Gallery
June 22	Concord, NH	Venue TBA
June 23	Providence, RI	Venue TBA
July 1	Portland, ME	Venue TBA
July 2	Burlington, VT	Venue TBA
July 8	Little Rock, AR	William J. Clinton Presidential Center
July 13	Denver, CO	Venue TBA
July 14	Casper, WY	Venue TBA
July 15	Salt Lake City, UT	Venue TBA
July 16	Boise, ID	Venue TBA
July 20	Washington, DC	The Kennedy Center

“Nearly six million people make their living in the non-profit arts industry and arts and cultural activities contribute more than \$160 billion to our economy every year,” said First Lady Michelle Obama. “The President provided an additional \$50 million in funding to the NEA in the Recovery Act to preserve jobs in state arts agencies and regional arts organizations in order to keep them up and running during the economic downturn. Our future as an innovative country depends on ensuring that everyone has access to the arts and to cultural opportunities and the Arts in Crisis initiative addresses this important intersection of creativity and commerce.”

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi stated, “Arts organizations are facing the same challenges as America’s families and communities; in this recession, it is tough to make ends meet. Yet as President John F. Kennedy once said, ‘The life of the arts – far from being an interruption in the life of a nation – is very close to the center of a nation’s purpose.’ That is why I applaud Michael Kaiser and the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Crisis initiative, which is helping to preserve arts organizations that are struggling

during this difficult time. In so doing, we are ensuring a vibrant cultural life for our nation for generations to come.”

“The recent closure of the Las Vegas Art museum – which had been operating continuously since 1974 – shows that this economic recession is taking a serious toll on our art institutions in Nevada and throughout our nation,” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. “The Kennedy Center’s *Arts in Crisis* provides hands-on training that will enable struggling arts organizations to emerge from the economic downturn stronger than ever. I know that the arts in Nevada will benefit from the Kennedy Center’s expert advice and I look forward to Mr. Kaiser’s visit to my state.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell commended, “Like many Kentuckians, I appreciate the contributions of the arts and humanities in enriching our communities and I would like to thank the Kennedy Center for lending its considerable fundraising and management expertise to help local arts agencies weather these difficult times.”

“At this time of economic challenge for our country, families and small businesses are struggling to make ends meet, and the same can be said of arts organizations throughout our nation,” concluded House Minority Leader John Boehner. “I commend Michael Kaiser and the Kennedy Center for stepping up to help arts organizations in communities across America weather the storm, sharing their expertise and counsel at a time when they’re needed most.”

Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative also enables senior arts managers across the United States to volunteer to serve as mentors to other arts organizations. “There are many talented arts administrators around the country, and we encourage them to lend their expertise,” said Michael Kaiser. “If all of us work together, we can turn a time of crisis into a time of opportunity.”

Non-profit performing arts organizations who would like to participate in the program should visit www.artsincrisis.org to submit an online request. The Kennedy Center will quickly match organizations in need with a member of the Kennedy Center executive staff or a volunteer mentor in their local area.

Since 2001, Michael M. Kaiser and his executive staff have 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.

Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative is funded by Helen Lee Henderson and Adrienne Arsht.

**For more information about *Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative*,
please visit artsincrisis.org.**

#

PRESS CONTACT*:

John Dow

The Kennedy Center

(202) 416-8448

jrdow@kennedy-center.org

**Please do not publish this information.*