



United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Arts Elects New Board Members

Raleigh, N.C. - The United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County is proud to announce that nine new members have been added to its Board of Directors for the 2011 fiscal year. These members were elected to the board because they possess creative ideas and unique skills that will help United Arts build upon fundraising and community initiatives to benefit the arts throughout Wake County. The new board members agree to serve a three-year term. They include:

Georgia Donaldson, Leland Little Auction & Estate Sales

As a community volunteer with a focus on the arts and historic preservation, Ms. Donaldson is a member of Raleigh Fine Arts and is on the Board of Directors of the Joel Lane House Museum. In 2005, she created the Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? fund raiser which continues to raise over \$100,000 for United Arts each year. Ms. Donaldson is employed by Leland Little Auction & Estate Sales.

Steele Hall, Southern Community Bank and Trust

Mr. Hall currently manages the commercial loan portfolio for Southern Community Bank and Trust's Raleigh office and has been an integral part in starting the company's operations in the Triangle since 2006. A seasoned banker, Mr. Hall has 22 years experience in the industry.

Gene Jones, Womble Carlyle

Mr. Jones is a member of Womble Carlyle's Corporate and Securities Practice Group and has over a decade of experience representing public and private companies ranging in size to over \$500 million. In 2006, Mr. Jones was recognized in Business North Carolina's Legal Elite.

Kathy Knudsen, VitalChart

Ms. Knudsen is Vice President of Business Development for VitalChart. She has an extensive background with non-profits including The American Heart Association and The American Cancer Society; and she is the former Executive Director of the International Festival. Ms. Knudsen believes "that music is medicine for our souls, dance is energy for our hearts and history reminds us who we are."

Heoak Lee, Black Belt World

Ms. Lee is Vice President of Black Belt World in Knightdale and director and choreographer of "Imperial Jewel", a traditional Korean Dance group which performs throughout North Carolina. For the past 21 years, Ms. Lee has been involved with the Triangle Korean School as the dance teacher and served as president of the Board of Directors from 2003-2005. Since 1997, she has been the Ethnic Chairperson for the International Festival in Raleigh.

V. R. Ramanan, ABB, Inc.

Dr. Ramanan is the Executive Consulting Research and Development Scientist at the U.S. Corporate Research Center of ABB, Inc. in Raleigh. Since his family's move to Cary 18 years ago, Dr. Ramanan has been an active supporter of the arts in Wake County by serving on the Board of United Arts from 1997-2003 and as its Board Chairman in 2001-2002.

Bruce Sharpe, UBS

With over 35 years in the financial services industry, Mr. Sharpe is currently Senior Vice President, Investments and Financial Advisor at UBS Wealth Management. In addition to returning to the United Arts Board, Mr. Sharpe is also a member of following boards: Communities in Schools of Wake County, Eastern N.C. Chapter of National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the College of Management Advisory Board at NCSU.

Duncan Taylor, BB&T

For the past five years, Mr. Taylor has been a commercial banker with BB&T in Raleigh working in both commercial real estate and with operating companies. Mr. Duncan completed undergraduate degrees in Biochemistry and Chemistry and a MBA at North Carolina State University.

Ted Van Dyk, New City Design Group

Mr. Van Dyk founded New City Design Group in 1996 and has over 20 years of experience in architecture and planning in both Raleigh and Seattle. His recent experience has included participation in Raleigh's Livable Streets initiative and on the revitalization of the Hillsborough Street Corridor. Mr. Van Dyk was named a 2008 Triangle Architectural and Engineering Impact Leader by Business Leader Magazine.

United Arts' mission is to *work towards building better communities through the support and advocacy of the arts*. Eleanor H. Oakley, President and CEO of United Arts, said, "This new group of directors is a wonderful addition to our organization. Every day the arts enhance our lives, our children's education and our business environment. We are grateful to these individuals for their contributions toward strengthening our arts community."

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