

eric schaeffer
 artistic director

sam sweet
 managing director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIGNATURE THEATRE AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS \$600,000 CHALLENGE GRANT FROM THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

Arlington, VA — Signature Theatre is honored to receive a prestigious **\$600,000 challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation**. Signature is required to raise the final \$2 million towards its \$7.5 million capital campaign between now and October 1, 2006, to meet the challenge. A total of \$5 million had been raised, and with the addition of The Kresge Foundation grant, Signature Theatre is 75% towards its fundraising goal for its new two-theatre complex currently under construction.

“Capital campaign support from The Kresge Foundation is highly sought after both nationally and internationally,” said **Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer**. “Being awarded this grant speaks volumes to the vital impact Signature has on the community and is an immense endorsement of our expansion plans.”

Challenge grants from The Kresge Foundation are made toward projects involving construction or renovation of facilities and the purchase of major capital equipment or real estate. Grant recipients must have raised initial funds toward their respective projects before requesting assistance from The Kresge Foundation. Grants are then made on a challenge basis, requiring the raising of the remaining funds, thereby insuring completion of the projects. A Kresge Foundation challenge grant does more than just build a building or reward good programs. It presents an opportunity to build institutional capacity by helping an organization broaden and deepen its base of support from the private sector and by encouraging volunteer involvement in the fundraising effort and beyond.

At the time of the September, 2005 grant announcements, The Kresge Foundation had awarded 154 grants in 2005 for a total of \$89,734,863. It will continue to make new grant commitments during the balance of the year. John E. Marshall, III, President and CEO of The Kresge Foundation, indicated “In this cycle of grantmaking, our Trustees were pleased to support a range of organizations reflecting almost the entire breadth of the nonprofit sector. This diverse group is responding to the new challenges presented in their communities or sustaining activities that have demonstrated their effectiveness.” Grants are made to institutions operating in the areas of higher education, health and long-term care, arts and humanities, human services, science and the environment, and public affairs.

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

To secure the future of Signature Theatre and ensure its continued artistic excellence and service to the community, the organization is moving into a new state-of-the-art two-theatre complex in the Village at Shirlington. To support this ambitious endeavor, Signature has undertaken a \$7.5 million capital campaign.

“The current space doesn’t even come close to allowing Eric to realize his full potential,” stated **Managing Director Sam Sweet**. “Investing in a new building says we’re committed to pursuing an artistic vision and serving an audience and community for a long time. It will provide resources that enable us to take more risks programmatically. We’ll be able to expand programs in the schools and in the community and strengthen ourselves administratively.”

— MORE —

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TOTAL SIGNATURE/PRIVATE SECTOR GOAL: \$7.5 million

- Supporting the design, interior construction and outfitting of the state-of-the-art facility
- Providing a home for Signature’s programs and advancing its mission
- Funding includes hard and soft costs as well as transition funds for the project
- Safeguard Signature’s unique artistic, educational, and community programs

TOTAL COUNTY/PUBLIC GOAL: \$5.5 million

- Supporting the construction of the theatre exterior

TOTAL PROJECT: \$13 million

Signature Theatre gratefully acknowledges the following friends who have generously contributed \$10,000 or more to the capital campaign as of October 17, 2005:

\$1 million +

Maxine Isaacs and James Johnson
 Arlene and Robert Kogod
 Gilbert and Jaylee Mead

Dorothy Loudon Foundation
 Jones New York
 Zickler Family Foundation

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
 (planning grant)

Junius J. Gonzales, M.D.
 Susan and Jay Finkelstein
 Thomas Hesselbrock and Carl Spatz
 David and Diane Litman
 Donald and Julianna Mahley
 Mallory and Diana Walker
 Joan and David Maxwell
 National Endowment for the Arts
 (design grant)

\$500,000 to \$999,999

Kresge Challenge Grant

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Anonymous
 Clark-Winchcole Foundation
 Marybeth and Zachary Fraser
 Deborah Gandy/U.S. Trust
 Steven M. Rosenberg and
 Stewart C. Lowe III

Dr. Bob Rosen
 The Joan M. and David S. Shrager
 Foundation

\$250,000 to \$499,999

Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer
 Foundation

John Aniello, Jr. and Victor Shargai
 Eric Schaeffer
 Shugoll Research, Inc.
 Patti and Jerry Sowalsky
 Alan and Irene Wurtzel

Betty Ann Ottinger
 Richard and Wendy Rahm
 Roger and Vicki Sant
 Anne Corbett and Sam Sweet
 Gene and Linda Smith
 Charles and Lauren Tennes
 Sarah Valente
 Christopher Wailoo
 Paul and Susan Wojcik

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Helen Lee Henderson/HRH Foundation
 Philip L. Graham Fund
 Commonwealth of Virginia
 Wes Pickard and Jeanette Studley
 Thomas and Susan Gage

\$10,000 to \$24,999

David W. Briggs and John F. Benton
 Curtis Thompson Bell
 Michael and Carol Berman
 Roy T. Englert, Jr.
 Joseph Watkins and Bradley Frey

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Esthy and James Adler
 Hecht's
 Frank J. Guzzetta and Paul E. Manville

Signature Theatre

Signature is a non-profit professional theatre dedicated to producing contemporary plays and musicals and to the development of new work. Now in its 16th season under Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, Signature has been nominated for 191 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the professional theatre and has been honored with 42 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Musical in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2005 and Outstanding Play in 1999. Signature Theatre is a member of the Theatre Communications Group, The League of Washington Theatres, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, the Arlington Arts Alliance, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

Contact Info

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