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EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor

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**FIRST LADY ANNOUNCES '2008 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS
FOR THE ARTS' TO BE HELD IN WILLIAMSPORT**

Community Arts Center will be Venue for Awards Ceremony

HARRISBURG -- Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, First Lady of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, today said that Williamsport and its historic Community Arts Center will be the venue for the 2008 Governor's Awards for the Arts, Nov. 12.

"On behalf of the Governor, we are excited to continue Pennsylvania's long-standing tradition of celebrating artistic achievements," said the First Lady, who was joined in the announcement by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Executive Director Philip Horn and Marilyn Santarelli, one of 15 gubernatorial appointees to the council. "When we return to host the Governor's Awards for the Arts, Governor Rendell will proudly proclaim Williamsport the 'Cultural Capital of the Commonwealth' for the day."

With the selection of Williamsport as this year's host city, Governor Edward G. Rendell continues the tradition of holding the awards in a different Pennsylvania location each year.

Holding the state ceremony in different commonwealth venues enables new regions of the state to share in this celebration of the arts and their contributions to the vitality of Pennsylvania. It also provides the host region the opportunity to showcase their unique cultural assets to an audience that draws cultural leaders from across the state. Past host cities have included Wilkes-Barre, Greensburg, Reading, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Harrisburg, Altoona, Philadelphia, and Gettysburg.

The Governor's Awards for the Arts recognize artistic accomplishments in five categories: a distinguished arts award, a patron award, the outstanding leadership & service for youth/arts in education award, the Pennsylvania creative community award, and the artist of the year award (The Hazlett Memorial). Past recipients have included Jimmy Stewart, Marian Anderson, Andrew Wyeth, James Michener, Chaim Potok, Peter Nero, Fred Rogers, M. Night Shyamalan, Marilyn

Horne, Lang Lang, August Wilson, Nelson Shanks, Santo Loquasto, and Rob and Kathleen Marshall.

Award recipients are identified through an open call. The public may submit nominations through the May 23rd deadline. A panel comprised of members of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts reviews the nominations and makes recommendations. To download an application or to receive a nomination form, visit PCA's website, www.pacouncilonthearts.org, or call 717-787-1526.

The Governor's Awards for the Arts are administered by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency under the Office of the Governor, whose mission it is to foster the excellence, diversity and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania, and to broaden the availability and appreciation of those arts throughout the state.

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The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit www.governor.state.pa.us.