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ART SALE AND WINE TASTING

**BENEFITS TRENTON PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND
THE KENNEDY CENTER'S *ANY GIVEN CHILD* PROGRAM**



ARTWORK DONATED BY PRINCETON'S SYDNEY NEUWIRTH
WHO WILL ATTEND AND MEET GUESTS
TUESDAY, APRIL 12 – 5:30 TO 8 P.M.

Trenton, NJ (March 14, 2016) – The very generous artist, Sydney Neuwirth, of Princeton, NJ, believes in instilling an appreciation of the arts in young people and has donated a collection of 15 acrylic paintings to the Trenton Public Education Foundation (TPEF) for fundraising purposes to enhance the lives of Trenton public school students. On Tuesday, April 12 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., there will be an Art Sale and Wine Tasting with the opportunity for guests to meet Sydney Neuwirth and purchase her colorful pieces. It will take place at The Mansion at SAVE Animal Shelter, 1010 Route 601, Skillman, NJ. The ticket price of \$35 includes a sampling of wines from around the world and hors d'oeuvres and can be purchased at tpef.org, by e-mailing info@tpef.org or calling 609-656-4900 #5604.

The proceeds from the Art Sale will support the Trenton Public Education Foundation's arts education initiative which is the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' program called *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child*, being administered by TPEF on behalf of the Trenton public schools. Through a competitive process, the TPEF was accepted, making Trenton the 19th *Any Given Child* partner city in the nation. The primary goal of the Kennedy Center's *Any Given Child* program is to assist communities in developing and implementing a plan for expanded arts education in their schools, ensuring access and equity for all students in Pre-K through 8th grade. Although the initiative provides a structure for work to be accomplished, the Kennedy Center understands that every community is unique, and tailors the consultation and facilitation to each site. In Trenton, the plan will be expanded to include an arts education plan in the high schools as well. A prestigious 35-member Community Arts Team, representing the school district, the Office of Mayor, the arts and education communities,

business leaders and philanthropy, has been working with representatives from Kennedy Center throughout the year to create the strategic arts education plan for the Trenton public school students.

For Sydney Neuwirth, this project is the ideal match for her personal philosophy. She said, "Art is such an important part of a child's growth. It helps children view the world. It gives them self-confidence and a sense of curiosity about life. How great if a child appreciates more of what he sees because of art! To me, a world without art is barren."

Neuwirth, a lifelong New Jersey resident, values her earliest memories with the arts. She was born in Belleville, NJ, a suburb of Newark, where her family had a paint business. As a child she lived in an apartment above her family's paint store, which was a gift in her life. She explained, "I was indulged mightily with art supplies – wallpaper samples, paints and glass supplies -- and I was able to experiment with everything. It was a great basis for my interest in art." She went to West Orange High School and then got a BA Degree from NJ College for Women, now Douglas College at Rutgers University. She studied art and majored in English. Neuwirth began her career as a writer and editor, but it was art that grabbed her.

After she married her husband, Lee, a mathematician, they moved to Princeton and raised their family there, as he was the Director at The Institute for Defense Analyses. When they were married, Neuwirth took water color classes locally; life classes drawing models. She also took dance and encouraged her daughter, actress Bebe Neuwirth, to dance as well. She said, "I'd take Bebe to dance class and sit back and draw." Between dancing and painting, Sydney Neuwirth has always been immersed in art. She instilled that in her own child too. Bebe has done pottery since high school. She laughed, "Recently Bebe would design pottery and I'd paint it! It was great fun!"

For 40 years, Sydney Neuwirth has been showing and selling her art in galleries in New York, New England, NJ, CA, NY and New Hope. She amassed such a collection of art that she is happy to make donations. When her daughter, a member of the Board of The Actor's Fund, created the Dancers Resource to assist professional dancers in many areas when they have problems, Sydney supplied paintings of dancers, and Bebe supplied photographs she had taken for a benefit to launch it.

Neuwirth, who also has a son Peter, an Actuary now living in California, hopes that more people get involved with art. She said, "I hope that people who see my art would want to try it themselves and keep at it. The personal reward is well worth it."

Ellen Mushinski, Executive Director of the Trenton Public Education Foundation, was overwhelmed when Georgeanne Moss, a New Jersey member of the National Committee for the Performing Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center, told her that Sydney Neuwirth was interested in donating her art to the TPEF. Mushinski said, "This is such a generous gift and Sydney is so kind to donate her art to help the TPEF do its work. The sale of her work can help us raise money to ensure we can implement the programs the Community Arts Team is developing as part of *Any Given Child*. How wonderful that funds raised through the sale of Sydney's art will be able to expand children's opportunities to explore the arts! We'll be selling art to enhance art education and art experiences." For more information about Trenton Public Education Foundation, please visit tpef.org.

ABOUT EDUCATION AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

The Kennedy Center retains its commitment as the nation's cultural center to educating and enlightening children and adults in Washington and around the country. The Center's national education programs include: *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child*, which works with 20 municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEDGE, a website that offers standards-based materials for use in and out of the classroom; Partners in Education, which forges relationships between an arts organization and its neighboring school systems to build effective arts education programs for teachers and teaching artists; Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, works with 30 state organizations on arts education policy issues; Explore the Arts, which provide insight into the cultural and historical context of the works presented on stage and sparks dialogue between audiences and the artists who have created the performances through participatory workshops, demonstrations, panels, master classes, and open rehearsals; and the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which acknowledge teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students; and Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour, which brings original Kennedy Center productions for students and families into communities and performing arts centers around the country.

In and around D.C., the Kennedy Center's programs include *Changing Education Through the Arts*, a program that works with seven schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers, which trains Washington-area educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C. Partnership Schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 22 elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Washington, D.C. The Center also mounts more than 100 events and performances of theater, music, dance, and opera throughout the season for more than 100,000 local school-aged children.

In addition, the Center offers multiple skill development programs for young artists and professionals both locally and nationally, including the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell; Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead; VSA's Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists, and Visual Arts Programs; arts administration internships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival which impacts hundreds of thousands of college-aged theater students across the country and marks its 48th anniversary in 2016.

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