FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIDWEST ARTS & AGING CONFERENCE AND SHOWCASE
PRESENTED BY ARTSAGE — JUNE 19 AT MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

June 18, 2015 — ArtSage presents the second Midwest Arts & Aging Conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on June 19, 2015, bringing together arts and aging experts, teaching artists, arts and senior-serving organizations, funders, and the media—all those who wish to learn more about this growing hybrid field.

According to official counts, by the year 2030 older adults will comprise one-fifth of our state population. Across the nation, baby boomers are turning 65 at the rate of 10,000 people per day. Today’s older adults are demanding that their lives remain vital, yet few community and cultural organizations understand or are prepared to deal with the creative aging needs of this growing population.

The day-long conference kicks off with keynote speaker and theater artist Stuart Kandell, founder and executive director of Stagebridge Senior Theatre of Oakland, California, the nation’s oldest and most renowned theatre company of older adults. Dr. Kandell draws on his 35 years as director of Stagebridge, as a pioneer in the field of creative aging, and on his international experience in a burgeoning field. Kandell’s presentation, entitled “What Happens When We All Live To Be 100?”, attendees will learn more about the history of arts and aging, the growing body of science that is attesting to many positive outcomes of arts engagement; and the major challenges and opportunities for the future.

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After the keynote, concurrent morning workshops will focus on arts and aging topics, including: Memory Loss and Arts Programs, Myths of Aging, Evaluation Tips & Tools, Caring for the Caregiver™ — Caregiver Training through Dance, Drowning In or Surfing on the Silver Tsunami, Benefits of Art Making for Quality of Life in Aging and Finding Funding for Your Program. Stuart Kandell will also offer a hands-on theater workshop entitled, If Not Now, When?

Afternoon workshop sessions by nationally-recognized master teaching artists include taiko drumming with Iris Shiraishi of ensemble-MA and Taiko Alive!, and experiential movement and storytelling with Maria Genné and the teaching artists of Kairos Alive!

The afternoon will also offer the ArtSage Teaching Artist Showcase, featuring individual artists who have been trained by ArtSage to work with older adults demonstrating and describing the classes and programs they offer. This is an important opportunity for independent artists to connect with activity directors in senior housing organizations and care communities for employment opportunities in lifelong learning.

In addition, the conference will feature a half-day Exhibitor Fair, showcasing arts, cultural, senior and community organizations who are working to create arts-infused programs and communities all across Minnesota—in community housing, arts centers, theaters, libraries, and senior centers.

Attendees will have many opportunities to network throughout the day with artists, arts organizations, senior organizations, and colleagues from every field of arts and aging.

THE ARTS AND HEALTHY AGING

Groundbreaking research documented by Dr. Gene Cohen, author of The Creative Age: Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life, found a direct link between creative expression and healthy aging. Cohen found that older people involved in creating art, music, theater and other artistic forms feel better, remain more independent, and live more meaningful lives. He also proved through longitudinal studies that older adults who engaged in arts activities reduced the need for medications and lowered their health care costs.

Using this research, ArtSage, a Minnesota nonprofit, is working to ensure that older adults participate in arts and creative activities in order to remain vital, healthy and engaged in living. ArtSage provides training for teaching artists who wish to work with older adults, consulting services for organizations and senior communities that help them to provide quality arts programming for their residents, and resources such as SageConnect, a database to connect those working in the field of arts and aging.

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June 19, 2015
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska

Schedule of Events

Keynote with Stuart Kandell

8:30 am – 9:30 am
Theater artist Stuart Kandell, founder and director of Stagebridge Senior Theatre, the nation’s oldest and most renowned theatre company of older adults, draws upon his 35 years in the field of arts and aging with the conference keynote, “What Happens When We All Live To Be 100?”

Arts & Aging Workshop Sessions

Session One  9:45 am – 10:45 am
Session Two  11:00 am – 12:00 noon
Concurrent workshop sessions on arts & aging topics include Memory Loss and Arts Programs, Myths of Aging, Evaluation Tips & Tools, Caring for the Caregiver—Caregiver Training through Dance, Drowning in or Surfing on the Silver Tsunami, Benefits of Art Making for Quality of Life in Aging and Finding Funding for Your Program.
Stuart Kandell will also offer a hands-on theater workshop entitled, If Not Now, When?

Exhibitor Fair

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Learn about arts, cultural, senior and community organizations working to create arts-infused programs all across Minnesota—in community housing, arts and community centers, theaters, libraries, and senior centers.
Teaching Artist Showcase

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Visit the Teaching Artist Showcase to be inspired by ArtSage-trained teaching artists—including musicians, theater artists, dancers, drummers, weavers, storytellers, writers, visual artists—who deliver high-quality arts programs for older adults in community settings and at all levels of care.

Interactive Workshops

Session One  1:30 pm – 2:45 pm
Session Two  3:15 pm – 4:30 pm
Attend hands-on, multi-disciplinary workshops: movement and storytelling with Maria Genné and the staff of Kairos Alive! and a hands-on taiko drumming session with Iris Shiraishi from Taiko Alive! Learn how to put innovative arts programs into action with these ArtSage master teachers.

Arts & Aging Happy Hour

Morgan Terrace 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Attendees will mix and mingle with fellow conference participants, presenters, exhibitors and teaching artists.

About ArtSage:
ArtSage is a connector, convener and catalyst for the field of arts and aging. A Minnesota-based nonprofit, ArtSage provides training programs, consulting services, and arts and aging resources. Learn more at: www.artsagemn.org.