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TEACHING ARTISTS SELECTED FOR
ARTS & AGING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

21 MINNESOTA PROFESSIONAL TEACHING ARTISTS SELECTED TO RECEIVE
PRESTIGIOUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Wayzata, MN (October 10, 2014) - Twenty-one Minnesota teaching artists have been selected to receive year-long arts and aging training led by nationally recognized teaching artists and aging experts to increase their skills in working with older adults. The training is presented by ArtSage, a Minnesota nonprofit that serves as a connector, convener and catalyst for the field of arts and aging. Artists were selected from a pool of 37 candidates from disciplines including: visual arts, dance, theater, music and literary arts. Funding for the program comes through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Additional support for Twin Cities metro and western metro artists comes from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America.

The BASIC training group will include 14 artists from the Twin Cities metro area and 4 artists from Greater Minnesota, who will participate in four days of experiential workshops (including a two-day intensive conference at the Oak Ridge Conference Center in November). Each of the artists will be paired with a mentor to observe, teach and provide feedback on best practices. The training will allow artists to increase their understanding of the qualities, characteristics and dimensions unique to the aging population, to develop tools and techniques to work with older adult populations, to engage in critical discourse about their artistic work in relation to aging, and learn from and connect to leading local, regional and national presenters and experts on arts and aging.

In addition, three artists who have already completed ArtSage basic training were selected for ADVANCED training (new in 2014), in which they will work one-on-one with a mentor during a 3-month period to expand
their learning through focused instruction in a secondary art form (following the ArtSage multi-modal approach) or in a specific care area, such as memory loss.

As the American population ages, there has been a national trend to seek ways to engage older adults and to enlist the arts to help them lead more productive and meaningful lives. Here in Minnesota, the Department of Health estimates that the population age 65 and over will double between 2000 and 2050. 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 who are involved in creating art, music, theatre and other artistic forms feel better, remain more independent, and live more meaningful lives.

“Our goal with this training is to develop an ‘army’ of teaching artists who are trained to work with older adults in community settings and all levels of care,” says ArtSage Executive Director Tammy Hauser. “By doing this, we set the standard for meaningful arts activities that engage seniors’ minds, hearts, and spirits and help them to continue living creative and vital lives.”

ArtSage Training Initiative staff and mentors for 2014-2015 include: **Jeanie Brindley-Barnett** (MacPhail Center for Music), **Joey Clark** (MacPhail Center for Music) **Michèle Coppin** (independent visual artist), **Parker Genné** (Kairos Dance Theater), **Zoë Bird**, (Alzheimer’s Poetry Project-Minnesota).

**Artists selected for ArtSage BASIC training in 2014-2015:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Art Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valorie Arrowsmith</td>
<td>Stanchfield</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
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<td>Jenny Barlow</td>
<td>Chaska</td>
<td>Literary Arts</td>
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<td>Sandy Baron</td>
<td>Wayzata</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
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<td>Cate Belleveau</td>
<td>Puposky</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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<td>Alison Bergblom Johnson</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>Literary Arts</td>
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<td>Melinda Bolton</td>
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<td>Wanda Borman</td>
<td>Eagan</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
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<td>Naomi Cohn</td>
<td>Saint Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Cook</td>
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<td>Laurie Greeninger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Hetherington</td>
<td>Newport</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
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ArtSage Teaching Artists Selected For Training—10/09/14

Robert Karimi  Saint Paul  Interdisciplinary
Paula Lammers  Apple Valley  Music
Deborah Magnuson  New Brighton  Music
Mike Marthaller  Minneapolis  Visual Arts
Kim Sueoka  Minneapolis  Music
Barbara Tarrant  Minneapolis  Literary Arts
Cynthia Unowsky  Saint Paul  Music

Artists selected for ArtSage ADVANCED training in 2014-2015:

LeeAnn Goerss  Buffalo  Visual Arts
Emily Jarrett Hughes  Minneapolis  Dance
Therese Kunz  Outing  Theatre

“Every time I do something with ArtSage, my work gets better and my classes get more powerful and meaningful. There is still so much to learn!”
—Emily Jarrett Hughes, ArtSage ADVANCED Training Participant, 2014-2015

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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For more information on the ArtSage and the Arts & Aging Professional Development Initiative, contact megan@artsagemn.org.

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.