FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artsage Offers Interactive Learning Session
at Mayo Regional Arts In Healthcare Symposium
“Developing and Implementing Engaging Arts Programs for Older Adults with Memory Loss”
November 17, 2014

Wayzata, MN (October 28, 2014) - ArtSage is offering a hands-on interactive session for artists and caregivers at the Mayo Regional Arts In Healthcare Symposium, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota on November 15-17, 2014. The general conference location is Phillips Hall, on the first floor of the Mayo Clinic’s Siebens Medical Education Building, 100 Second Avenue SW, Rochester, Minnesota. The ArtSage interactive learning session, “Developing and Implementing Engaging Arts Programs for Older Adults with Memory Loss” will take place as a breakout session at 3:30 PM on Monday, November 17.

The session will be led by ArtSage master teachers Zoë Bird, director of the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project-Minnesota and Jane Tygesson, Founder of Opening Doors to Memory. Beginning with a painting and incorporating music and movement, Zoë and Jane will lead session participants through an arts process that uses classic and well-loved poems, call-and-response techniques, props and engagement of the senses to create a group poem. This process, developed by the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project (APP) and supported by ArtSage, engages people navigating memory loss in an exciting and stimulating way.

In this interactive process teaching artists provide the conduit for memory-impaired participants (patients) to express their memories in a caring environment using a positive intervention that allows for human connection and the resurfacing of self. Teaching artists, care providers and loved ones also participate, and report heightened energy levels, verbal activity, motility, positive facial expressions, and cooperative behavior during and after APP poetry sessions.

- more -
Presenter biographies:

Zoë Bird is a poet, editor and the founder and director of the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project Minnesota (APP-MN) and its primary teaching artist since 2010. Prior to returning to her home state of Minnesota, she was APP’s New Mexico Poet-in-Residence for four years. She is also a professional teaching artist mentor with ArtSage.

Jane Tygesson is author of Opening Doors to Memory & Imagination, a manual to help museums create programs that engage the senses and spark conversation for people with memory loss. She is the Program Director of the Opening Doors initiative, through which she offers the book and services free of charge so that more museums around the country can offer tours to adults with memory loss. She is also the Project Manager for the Ecumen Lakeshore Pilot Model with ArtSage.

For additional information, and to register for the Mayo Regional Arts in Health Care Symposium, please visit: http://www.mayo.edu/cme/special-topics-in-health-care-2014r000

For more information about available ArtSage conference keynotes and presentations, please 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.