

SEVENTH ANNUAL



BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD

September 18, 2003  
Hotel Monaco  
Washington, DC





## GREETINGS

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On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Partners for Livable Communities, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the Hotel Monaco for the Seventh Annual Bridge Builders Award dinner. This year's program has the special theme of Culture Builds Communities. It is an honor to be able to recognize these leaders for using art and culture as a community building resource to bridge the social, economic and racial divides in their communities. These leaders represent the best of the American spirit. By reaching across boundaries, they unleashed the power and promise of the people who are united for a common goal. We are proud to offer these community partners the applause they so richly deserve.

GLEND A E. HOOD  
*Secretary of State*  
*State of Florida*

WILLIAM K. REILLY  
*President and CEO*  
*AQUA International*

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Anheuser-Busch, Inc. is pleased to underwrite the Partners for Livable Communities Bridge Builders Awards. These awards recognize community and business leaders for the creative and forthright direction they have taken in crossing boundaries of race, gender, economics and social equity for the community's well-being. Their initiative and courage has required both personal and professional risks. These leaders represent the best of the American spirit. Anheuser-Busch is proud to recognize the success of their efforts and the example they have set for the rest of us to follow.

ANTHONY J. JONES  
*Senior Director*  
*Community Outreach*  
*Anheuser-Busch, Inc.*

## BRIDGE BUILDERS PROGRAM

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6:00 PM RECEPTION Hotel Monaco

7:00 PM WELCOME CO-HOSTS

GLENDA E. HOOD  
*Secretary of State*  
*State of Florida*

WILLIAM K. REILLY  
*President and CEO*  
*AQUA International*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

KATHY DWYER SOUTHERN  
*Director*  
*Capital Children's Museum*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DANA GIOIA  
*Chairman*  
*National Endowment for the Arts*

7:30 PM DINNER PARIS BALLROOM

8:30 PM AWARDS PROGRAM PARIS BALLROOM

## PROGRAM

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Master of Ceremonies KATHY DWYER SOUTHERN

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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#### CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

KENNETH D. LEWIS  
*Chairman and CEO*  
Bank of America Corporation

ROBERT CANNON  
*Former Executive Director*  
Public Library of  
Charlotte/Mecklenburg County

BRUCE LAROWE  
*Executive Director*  
Children's Theatre of Charlotte

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#### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RICHARD D. BARON  
*Co-Founder and CEO*  
McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc.

STEPHANIE RIVEN  
*Executive Director*  
Center for Contemporary Arts

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#### JAMAICA-QUEENS, NEW YORK

JACQUELINE ARRINGTON  
*Vice President and Director*  
Citibank Community Relations

F CARLISLE TOWERY  
*President*  
Greater Jamaica Development  
Corporation

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#### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

ANDREW F. CATES  
*President*  
Cates Company  
Project Developer and  
Chairman, Soulsville U.S.A.

DEANIE PARKER  
*President and Executive Director*  
Soulsville U.S.A.

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#### WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

NICK FRANCIS  
*President*  
Gateway Community  
Development Corporation

JACK B. JOHNSON  
*County Executive*  
Prince George's County,  
Maryland



C O H O S T

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## THE HONORABLE GLENDA E. HOOD



Glenda E. Hood is serving her first term as Florida's Secretary of State. She oversees the Department's Division of Administrative Services, Division of Corporations, Division of Cultural Affairs, Division of Elections, Division of Historical Resources, and the Division of Library and Information Services.

Prior to her appointment as Secretary of State, Hood served three terms as Orlando's Mayor. From helping to increase city safety to educational programs for children to assisting small business, Hood's dedication to safe cities, livable neighborhoods and strong local economies reflect her commendable work in Orlando.

In fall 2001, Governor Jeb Bush appointed Hood as Chair of Florida's Domestic Security Advisory Panel where she spearheaded a Statewide Security Summit. In April 2002, President Bush commended Hood for establishing a Citizen Corps to create opportunities for individuals to volunteer for disaster preparedness programs in their communities.

Before her position as Mayor in 1992, Hood served on the Orlando City Council and was President of her own public relations firm. She served as past President of the National League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Chamber of Commerce. Hood is a member of the Board of Trustees of Partners for Livable Communities and chairs its Executive Committee.



C O H O S T

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## **WILLIAM K. REILLY**



William K. Reilly is President and CEO of AQUA International and former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Working in public service, then in the non-profit sector and finally in private equity finance, Reilly has had three different careers. In public service, Reilly worked as a Senior Staff Member of the President's Council on Environmental Quality. He was appointed Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President George Bush, Sr. and is noted for his role in the passage of the Clean Air Act of 1990.

Reilly's non-profit career began with his position as President of the Conservation Foundation followed by his position as President of the World Wildlife Fund, where he was known for effecting several "debt for nature" trades, a model he later persuaded President Bush to copy on a large scale to increase conservation funds. His third career continues with the several hundred million dollars he raised to invest in the water companies of developing countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East. He is a founding partner and CEO of AQUA International, overseeing investments in companies around the world that involve various aspects of the water sector.

William Reilly is the Chairman of the Board of the World Wildlife Fund and a Director of the Boards of DuPont, Conoco Phillips, National Geographic, the Packard Foundation, Royal Caribbean and Partners for Livable Communities.

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

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### **KATHY DWYER SOUTHERN**



As President and CEO of the Capital Children' Museum in Washington, D.C., Kathy Southern knows what it means to be a leader. For over 25 years, Southern has provided guidance to museums, cultural and philanthropic organizations, associations and government in the Washington, D.C. area.

During her position as President and CEO of Port Discovery in Baltimore, Maryland, Southern chaired a \$35 million capital campaign to create and develop one of the three largest children's museums in the country. The former Executive Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Montpelier (James Madison's home) and the National Cultural Alliance, Southern has numerous professional affiliations such as New York's American Council for the Arts, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and the Board of Directors for the American Association of Museums and the Association of Children's Museums. A supporter of arts and culture, Southern is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Partners for Livable Communities.

The Distinguished Business School Alumni Award she received from the University of Wisconsin in 2000 speaks of her honorable work.





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## DANA GIOIA



A poet, critic and best-selling anthologist, Dana Gioia is the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, appointed by President George W. Bush in February 2003. Gioia, a graduate of both Stanford and Harvard, moved to New York in 1977 to start a career in business, working as a business executive for General Foods before becoming Vice President for Marketing and writing in his free time.

Considered one of America's leading contemporary men of letters and internationally recognized for his distinctive contemporary poetry style, Gioia is a recipient of the American Book Award for one of his three full-length books of poetry. In addition to being an author, Gioia is an active translator of poetry from Latin, Italian, German and Romanian. He is the founder of "Teaching Poetry," a conference dedicated to improving high school teaching of poetry and serves as the Vice President of the Poetry Society of America.

Dana Gioia is a long time commentator on American culture and literature for BBC Radio. His work has appeared in various magazines including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post Book World*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Slate*, and *The Hudson Review*.

## THE BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD

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The strength to persevere and accept challenges is a spirit worthy of praise. To make differences in communities that affect lives for the better is a feat.

The Bridge Builders Award honors those exemplary individuals and institutions for building bridges of understanding and cooperation across all divides -- social, economic, regional and racial -- creating beneficial, enduring partnerships for the betterment of their communities.

While we honor tonight those who have accomplished so much for their communities, Partners would also like to remember our two pioneer bridge builders who were the inspiration for the creation of the award: the late Dan E. Sweat and recently, the late Maynard H. Jackson.

Dan Sweat dedicated his life to improving the city of Atlanta, wanting first and foremost to make Atlanta a desirable place to live and work. Through his position as President of Central Atlanta Progress, Sweat unified the downtown business leaders resulting in a public-private partnerships that stimulated the redevelopment of intown neighborhoods and vacant land into mixed-income housing as well as city beautification.

With the 1974 election of Maynard H. Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor, a new era began. Head of an administration noted for construction, economic and arts development, open government, management innovation, equal opportunity and fiscal stability, Jackson formed a partnership with Sweat. Together, the two men worked through troubled times to unite the black and white communities and the public and private sectors of Atlanta.

Tonight we honor those courageous leaders who follow in the footsteps of Dan Sweat and Maynard Jackson, forging partnerships and laying foundations for strong communities that bind us together and foster growth and prosperity.

## CULTURE BUILDS COMMUNITIES

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Culture is everywhere. Culture is in food, dance, song, art, literature and religion. An inherent part of everyday life, culture defines who we are and gives us something to celebrate.

What can culture do to serve the interests of the community? This is the question the Culture Builds Communities Initiative seeks to address.

The theme of the Bridge Builders Award Program this year, Culture Builds Communities is an initiative of Partners for Livable Communities to expand the cultural agenda and blend it into community development efforts as an essential tool. Partners believes that a strong community is built on a foundation that ensures opportunities for youth, encourages a stable economic and civic infrastructure, and creates a sense of place, preserves heritage and celebrates diversity. Culture is a valuable resource to accomplish these goals.

Tonight Partners honors those who not only exemplify the qualities of a Bridge Builder, but also who have in some way, shape or form seized the cultural initiative and incorporated this component through private/public partnerships into beneficial programming and development within their communities.

- Kenneth Lewis, Robert Cannon, and Bruce LaRowe for their initiative and leadership in creating *ImaginOn: The Joe and Joan Martin Center*, a children's learning center in the greater Charlotte area.
- Richard Baron and Stephanie Riven for creating *The Center for Contemporary Arts*, a facility for affordable arts and education programs for youth and family in the St. Louis community.
- Jacqueline Arrington and Carlisle Towery for their commitment to using culture as a paramount resource for reinvigorating the neighborhood of Jamaica, Queens.
- Andrew Cates and Deanie Parker for revamping the neighborhood of Soulsville, Memphis through music education and the Soulsville non-profit organization.
- Nick Francis and The Honorable Jack Johnson for their innovation and development of the Prince George's Gateway Arts District.



## CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

### BOOKS AND THE STAGE BUILD A RAINBOW OF OPPORTUNITIES

To take a vision and make it tangible is a feat that takes the commitment of a person or people who truly believe it is possible. Combine the creativity of two talented directors and the support of a progressive business leader, and it is easy to imagine a land of endless opportunities for the youth of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, North Carolina that will be provided by *ImaginOn: The Joe and Joan Martin Center*. The center is a colorful, whimsical children's learning center that provides an exciting destination for families, a place where journeys of the imagination begin and stories come to life.

1997 marks the year when the dream of the learning center began. The Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and the Children's Theatre of Charlotte faced a similar challenge: both successful organizations had great programming for young people, but needed a bigger space because of increased demand for their services. Executive Directors for both the library and theatre, Bob Cannon and Bruce LaRowe, shared a common vision for a new facility that would reach into both the home and community and offer every child a rainbow of opportunity for the present as well as the future.

Yet without the partnership of Ken Lewis, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of America Corporation, the union of youth and community would not have been possible. Lewis is the primary, driving force behind the project who champions the global importance of education and the arts as a vehicle not only for community enrichment but as an investment for the future. As one of his first leadership acts in his tenure, Lewis initiated and currently chairs a private Endowment Campaign for the center.

"At the Bank of America, we realize our future depends on how well we educate our young people... "a children's learning center"... will ensure a vibrant future for Charlotte – not only with its presence in the center city, but, more importantly, with the broader education it will provide for those who will lead us in the years to come."

Set to open in 2005, *ImaginOn* offers a wide variety of programs designed to blend inspiration, imagination and critical thinking. *ImaginOn* holds the promise of learning for the children of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County that Ken Lewis, Bob Cannon and Bruce LaRowe believe in.



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## KENNETH D. LEWIS



Ken Lewis is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of America Corporation, the third largest bank in the land and number one consumer bank, serving households and businesses. Prior to his current position, Mr. Lewis served as President of the company's Florida and Texas banks, President of Consumer and Commercial Banking and was appointed the bank's Middle Market Group Executive. *American Banker* recognized Lewis as Banker of the Year in 2002 as well as being nominated Top Chief Executive Officer by *U.S. Banker*. With a belief in the need for arts and education to encourage youth to become involved with the community and take an active role in the future economy, Ken Lewis initiated and chairs the Endowment Campaign to raise funds for the new *ImaginOn: The Joe and Joan Martin Center*. Lewis is Chairman of the Youth at Risk Program in Charlotte, Vice Chairman of the National Urban League and a member of the Committee to Encourage Corporate Philanthropy.



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## ROBERT CANNON



Bob Cannon, former Executive Director of the Public Library of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, brings sixteen and half years of experience to the *ImaginOn* project. Cannon came to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Library from Kern County Library in Bakersfield, California. Cannon's vigilant years of work in building a nationally recognized library system earned him the "Library Director of the Year" award by the North Carolina Public Library Director's Association in 1995 and the "Pegasus" award from the Public Relations Society of America in 1996. Charlotte's annual *Novello Festival of Reading* became a national model for celebrations of books and authors under Cannon's leadership. Cannon currently serves as the Director of Libraries for the Broward County Libraries Division for Broward County, Florida.



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## BRUCE LAROWE



Bruce LaRowe is the Executive Director of the Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Sharing the same vision as Cannon to open doors for youth and enrich the greater Charlotte area, Mr. LaRowe in a team effort with Mr. Cannon, channeled his efforts into developing *ImaginOn*, a new facility that would reflect an original approach to the melding of traditional education and the arts. Previously, LaRowe served as Director of Development at Belmont Abbey College and Director of Institutional Development for the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte/Mecklenburg where he was responsible for a variety of tasks for both institutions, including fundraising and research. His extensive experience with volunteer work with such groups as the Cultural Education Advisory Committee and the Cultural Education Council give LaRowe a solid foundation in education, culture and the arts.



## ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

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### ARTS EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Take a summer class called Who Dunit At Hogwarts?, cook a culinary masterpiece, or steal the spotlight on stage. Individuals of all ages can now enjoy an appreciation in the arts with programming that appeals to a wide variety of tastes. At the Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA), 75,000 area residents from all walks of life can enjoy education, gallery, theater, dance and urban arts programs -- this includes those who cannot pay tuition.

COCA's founder and developer is Richard Baron, President of McCormack, Baron Salazar Inc. After witnessing the burning of Detroit with the riots of the 1960's, Baron became a legal aid lawyer representing public housing tenants and later formed a development company. Thirty years later, Baron and his company still possess the spirit of rejuvenating troubled neighborhoods and triumphing over obstacles. In addition, this rebuildier of America has the fire of a true pioneer. Not only does Baron recognize the value of education and culture in every sense, but incorporates this value into his projects by supporting programs that foster learning and unite a community.

Baron asked Riven to join COCA in 1987 and combined, with the evident success of Riven's leadership, the two are a dynamic duo. Both have made it a point to bring arts education to underserved groups resulting in fundraising to develop new programs and provide scholarships. Today 345 students are on scholarship and \$650,000 of the center's \$3.6 million annual budget is appropriated for outreach in city schools.

National grants tout COCA's effectiveness in arts education while awards for COCA speak volumes. COCA has received the Missouri Arts Award, the presidential Coming Up Taller Award, the World of Difference Community Service Award, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Endowment Award and the St. Louis Arts & Education Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Both Baron and Riven are entrepreneurial. Unafraid to take a challenge, they have provided the St. Louis area with a wide variety of affordable arts education programs that benefit all ages and members of the community.



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## **RICHARD D. BARON**



A pioneer in the development world and a 30-year veteran in aiding communities, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc. based in St. Louis, Richard Baron, guides his company in re-creating vibrant urban neighborhoods in some of the toughest inner-city areas across the country. He has always understood the “asset” of culture and heritage as a resource for community change. The success of his developments in cities such as Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Louisville, St. Louis and Cleveland prove to be a testament to the company’s unique ability to take destitute areas and transform them into areas of prosperity and growth. Baron is also the founder of The Center of Contemporary Arts, COCA. Continuing to add to his numerous years of community work, Baron serves on the Executive Committee of the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association, the Boards of St. Louis Downtown Partnership, Downtown Now! and COCA, as well as the Board of Trustees at St. Louis University.



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## **STEPHANIE RIVEN**



Arriving at COCA in 1987, Executive Director Stephanie Riven raised the institution to exemplary status with her infusion of an arts education program for metropolitan St. Louis. Under Riven’s 15-year dynamic leadership and a drive to create a world-class community arts center, the program grew from 40 students and a staff of four to more than 100 faculty members, 35 staff members, and 17,000 students. A Nashville native, Riven traveled from home to attend Washington University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in speech and hearing at the Central Institute for the Deaf. Previously, Riven served as the director of services for the handicapped children of the Head Start program and then maintained a private practice before joining COCA. With roots in a community-minded family, Riven strives to leave the door to the art world open to all.



## JAMAICA-QUEENS, NEW YORK

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### CULTURE BUILDS JAMAICA: THE BRIDGE TO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A former ancient trail for tribes as distant as the Ohio River and the Great Lakes, Jamaica, Queens has come a long way since colonial days. Now, Jamaica is a dynamic center for the greater Queens area offering various services and cultural and higher education opportunities to serve its 650,000 residents.

In the 1960s NYC Mayor John Lindsay challenged downtown Jamaica's business and civic leaders to form a partnership to prevent threats from encircling regional malls and demographic change from destroying Jamaica's own locational attributes and prime location.

Working together over the past decade to breathe life back into Jamaica, Carlisle Towery, President of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, in a joint venture with Jackie Arrington, Vice President of Citibank Community Relations, have invested time into a cultural collaborative that has helped spark the growth of a new Jamaica.

As part of a community-building business, Towery knows the importance of jobs, culture and commerce within a community and its connection to personal growth. Armed with the knowledge that Jamaica was once before a hub of activity, Towery and his corporation set out to once again achieve that status and hopefully propel Jamaica above and beyond. Teaming up with Jamaica native, Jackie Arrington of Citibank, the project moved into full swing with the support of the bank. Arrington, an avid volunteer and committed to the betterment of communities for the lives of its residents, represents Citibank's belief in culture as a building block and stepping stone in achieving prosperity. Sharing the same vision, Arrington and Towery, utilized art and cultural-related programs to boost Jamaica back to center status.

One of the first projects established in the Jamaica area was the Jamaica Arts Center. Now in its third decade as a multi-cultural center, the center offers a wide variety of programs including exhibitions, performances, workshops and classes in performing and visual arts disciplines with a focus on appreciating cultural differences through the arts. Jamaica continues to develop with summer festivals, the introduction of a commuter train, city murals, and preservation of ethnic establishments among many other venues.

Through the partnership of Towery and Arrington, today Jamaica has been restored to a commercial hub status. Bustling with activity and opportunity, Jamaica continues to grow as it attracts both locals and tourists to its cultural, historical and artistic richness.





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## JACQUELINE ARRINGTON



Born and raised in Jamaica, Queens, “Jackie” has had a 40-year career with Citibank working her way up the corporate ladder to her current position of Vice President and Director of Community Relations for Citibank’s Eastern Region. Through out her career, Jackie has devoted her time to taking an active role in her community by serving on boards and volunteering. On behalf of Citibank, Jackie’s community investment decisions center on educating young people, revitalizing neighborhoods and strengthening communities that Citibank serves. One of her most noted projects supported by Citibank is the revamping of Jamaica, Queens. Jamaica now thrives due to the collaboration of Jackie and Carlisle Towery’s development strategies, specifically the use of arts and culture to enhance public spaces and liven the neighborhoods both socially and economically. A graduate of the City College of New York with a degree in social work, Jackie is a board member of the Jamaica Arts Center, Long Island City Business Development Corp, the Greater Jamaica Development Corp and the Black Achiever’s in Industry Committee.



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## F. CARLISLE TOWERY



As President of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (GJDC) for the past 28 years, F. Carlisle Towery heads the corporation responsible for the transformation of Jamaica, Queens and a company that has been in the forefront of community development. Before the formation of the GJDC, Towery served as Chief Urban Designer for the Regional Plan Association where he helped to prepare planning and development analyses for New York’s Lower Hudson Valley and for Jamaica Center. A native Alabamian, Towery was in the first graduating class of Indian Springs School and was honored last year as Alumnus of the Year. A graduate from Auburn University in Architecture, Towery went on to earn a masters degree from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture.



## MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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### A LITTLE SOUL GOES A LONG WAY

The year 2003 brought the rebirth of the infamous Stax Records in Soulsville U.S.A. and the Memphis soul music symbolic of a time not long ago when talent reigned above all else. As one of the most popular soul-music labels ever and the epicenter of a musical movement, Stax placed over 167 hit songs in the top 100 pop charts and 243 hits in the top R & B charts and ignited the careers of soul stars such as Otis Redding, Sam & Dave, and Booker T. & the MGs. With the decline of Stax in 1975, economic troubles flooded the surrounding area.

Andrew Cates and Deanie Parker formed a partnership that revitalized the area dubbed “Soulsville” through a \$20 million redevelopment project on the original site of the old Stax recording studios near downtown Memphis with the building of the Stax Museum of American Soul Music and the Stax Music Academy for inner city youth. The idea is to help troubled students through music as well as provide education on Stax’s contribution to soul music.

Describing his work on the project as a “calling,” Cates’ used his unrelenting persistence to forge partnerships with local government and area agencies for economic and community development for funding. The project raised \$15 million in public and private money, the city alone donating \$2.5 million. Deanie Parker is an expert in music having worked with such internationally famous performers as Isaac Hayes, Booker T. & The MGs, Otis Redding, the Staple Singers, Rufus and Carla Thomas among others. Using her experience at Stax and her belief in Soulsville as “...something truly special,” Parker seized the opportunity to restore Memphis to its legendary status.

The new Stax stands a beacon of hope and opportunity in a formerly troubled Memphis neighborhood reminding everyone of a time when music spoke greater volumes than any color. Creativity and the life of Memphis soul course through its veins, unifying those of all races under the universal language of music.



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## ANDREW CATES



The President of Cates Company, a commercial real estate acquisition and redevelopment company, Andrew Cates returned to his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee in 1999 to develop and oversee the Soulsville Revitalization Project. A native Memphian, Cates is committed to the goal of revitalizing Soulsville so that the magic of soul music may once again reunite a diversified Memphis and cultivate underlying talent.

Cates is a founding partner of Viceroy Investments, LLC, prior to his position as an analyst at Trammell Crow Company Capital Markets Group. Cates earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the University of Texas. In addition to serving on various boards, Cates is the President of Hope & Healing Housing.



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## DEANIE PARKER



The Director of publicity, artists, and community relations for the renowned Stax Records from 1966 to 1976, Deanie Parker now carries with her the spirit of soul music as president and executive director of the Soulsville U.S.A. project. With her enthusiasm and belief in "...something truly special," Parker seized the opportunity to restore Soulsville back to the legendary status it once possessed. Parker is the

former Vice-President of Communications and Marketing at Regional Medical Center at Memphis before serving as the Assistant Director of Memphis in May International Festival. A graduate of the University of Memphis, Parker serves on the boards of the Rock 'n' Soul Museum, the Memphis & Shelby County Music Commission and Play It Again Memphis.



## WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

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### SETTING THE STANDARD

Prince George's County is one of the first counties in America to apply a culture builds community strategy as a vehicle for revitalization with the development of an arts district. Beginning at the northeast border of Washington, D.C. and traveling north through the towns of Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood, and Hyattsville, the Prince George's Gateway Arts District stretches for two miles on Route 1.

Executive Director of Gateway Community Development Corporation (CDC), Nick Francis, heads one of the largest, single public/private arts revitalization projects in the nation. Initially founded to support and enhance affordable housing, safety, and economic opportunities for its citizens, Francis is the voice of a community development corporation that uses arts and culture as a development strategy to pursue these goals with a belief that culture will better the lives of citizens. County Executive Jack Johnson is the voice of the county, supporting the Gateway project as a means for growth, unity and a way to build an enriched community.

The four planned arts districts in the inner-Beltway will provide affordable housing for artists and hopefully attract other innovative businesses. Collectively, the four sites to be created by Artspace Projects, Inc. expect to attract 150 new artists and their families to The Gateway, along with studios, galleries, arts organizations, educators, arts-related businesses, and pedestrian-friendly commercial enterprises.

Underway are community building strategies within the county incorporating the use of art such as a Gateway Arts Fair/Fine Arts Festival set for Spring 2004 to showcase Gateway artists, both students and professionals, and artists through out the region. To strengthen the existing Gateway Arts and Education Initiative, Gateway CDC sponsored Teacher/Artists Art and Education Workshops over the summer to target the learning principles of art and education. Gateway also plans to promote the use of civic spaces such as church halls, schools and outdoor areas.

With the support of Johnson and the belief of Francis in the power of arts and culture, Prince George's County is setting the bar for community development.



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## NICK FRANCIS



Serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa, Nick Francis took his first taste of community development. When he returned from Africa, Francis helped run two small businesses while working as a volunteer in Mount Rainier, Maryland. Francis joined his local community development corporation as a board member and in 2000 he became Gateway CDC's first staff person. Remembering his early days as a board member when he did not fully grasp the importance of art, Francis now believes that art creates a strong foundation for community development. Propelling his organization through three years of rapid growth, Francis led residents from four municipalities in Prince George's County, Maryland, through a series of visioning workshops resulting in the design for the Gateway Arts District. Francis works full-time as the Executive Director of Gateway Community Development Corporation.



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## THE HONORABLE JACK B. JOHNSON



As Prince George's sixth County Executive, Jack Johnson is striving to build a unified county for all residents and citizens. Within three months of taking office, Johnson launched his Livable Communities Initiative. Through his experience holding numerous positions in civic and professional organizations, Johnson is prepared to turn challenges within the community to opportunities for growth. Previous to his current position, Johnson served as the County's State's Attorney for eight years where his work to improve and upgrade the State's Attorney's Office helped reduce crime to a 20-year low for the County. The NAACP's "Presidential Award and the Army's Patriot Award" is just one of many awards and honors given to Johnson for his accomplishments and dedication to the community.

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ABOUT  
PARTNERS FOR  
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Partners for Livable Communities, incorporated in 1977, is a national civic organization working to improve the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development and social equity. Partners helps our nation's communities set common visions for the future, discover and utilize their cultural and natural resources, and build public/private partnerships to realize their goals.

Serving as a national resource and information center, Partners is a catalyst for civic improvements through technical assistance, leadership training, workshops, research, advocacy and public awareness. More than 1,200 organizations and individuals throughout North America and abroad comprise the Partners' resource network. These alliances produce a powerful force to affect positive change in our communities.

