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Community Foundation of Southern Indiana funds innovative exhibit at Carnegie Center for Art & History

*Exhibit called Art of Reading to showcase illustrations of scenes of reading,
and include interactive exhibits for children*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A new exhibit at the Carnegie Center for Art & History marries art and literacy, involving families in interactive, reading-centered activities for children.

The exhibit, called The Art of Reading, will showcase 12 illustrations from area artists that show scenes from children's literature, families reading books together or other artistic interpretations of reading. The illustrations will be placed on one side of the gallery. The other side of the gallery will be transformed into a storybook castle with four areas of activities for children. The Carnegie Center for Art & History is located at 201 E. Spring St., New Albany.

The Community Foundation of Southern Indiana is the primary sponsor of the exhibit. The Community Foundation gave the Carnegie Center a \$5,300 grant to pay artists for their illustrations and help underwrite some of the costs of the storybook castle area for children. PNC Bank Foundation has provided funding for books for children. All children who attend the exhibit will be given a free book. Ideology Design + Advertising has contributed graphic design services for promotional materials for the exhibit.

Schools and child care centers are encouraged to bring children for field trips.

"Good reading skills are central to a child's education," said Mike Waiz, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana. "We support efforts to increase literacy among area residents, particularly those in early childhood, as studies indicate that the biggest impact can be made in literacy by working with children at an early age."

The exhibit is set to open Friday, March 7, 2008, 6 to 8 p.m., with an opening reception for the artists. The reception is free and open to the public. On March 8, 2008, the exhibit will open to the public, and will run until April 24. The museum is free and open to the public. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The exhibit is the brainchild of Becky King, Floyd County CAPE director, and Sally Newkirk, director of the Carnegie Center for Art and History. King learned about a similar exhibit in another community when she attended a conference in 2007, and approached Newkirk to talk about how such an exhibit could take place here. Newkirk said the museum is normally booked several years in advance with exhibits, but the museum had a cancellation for March and was able to work it in.

“What we hope to do with this exhibit is engage groups of people who aren’t our normal audience for art exhibits,” Newkirk says. “It’s important for us to reach as diverse of an audience as possible, and this exhibit is a great step towards doing just that. It is an educational project that we hope will truly make a difference in the lives of the children and adults who come.”

King and Newkirk began talking about the various elements of the exhibit, and came up with a number of different ways to engage children, their parents, grandparents and families. Artist Christie Morris created a puppet named Book Mark to perform during the exhibit and also will be constructing a large, storybook castle cutout that will be set up at the entrance to the side of the gallery with children’s activities.

A full list of activities during the exhibit is below:

- Opening reception, Friday, March 7, 2008, 6 to 8 p.m. Free and open to the public. Light appetizers will be served, and jazz music will be performed by Jamey Aebersold Jazz Quartet.
- Exhibit opens, Saturday, March 8, 2008. Free and open to the public. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Family Fun workshop, in partnership with the Forest Discovery Center, Saturday, March 8, 2008. Free and open to the public, but advanced registration is required. Designed for children ages 2 to 12, their parents and grandparents. Children will make and decorate a small wooden car, and the Art of Reading exhibit will be open. Family Fun workshop is 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; exhibit is open until 5:30 p.m. To register for the workshop, call (812) 944-7336.
- Grandparents Workshop, Tuesday, March 18, 2008. A light supper will be served. Free and open to the public, but advanced registration is required. Workshop is designed to inform grandparents about the exhibit and provide ideas to share a love of reading with their grandchildren. To register for the workshop, call (812) 944-7336.
- Grandparents Saturday, March 29, 2008. Puppet show is planned for 10:30 a.m. with Book Mark and Page. A story time is planned for 11 a.m.
- Storybook Saturday, April 5. Puppet show is planned for 10 a.m. with Book Mark and Page, a lively puppet designed specifically for this exhibit. A story time is planned for 11 a.m.
- Family Fun workshop, Saturday, April 12, 2008. Free and open to the public, but registration is required. Designed for children ages 2 to 12, their parents and grandparents. Children will make a bean bag picture frame, and the Art of Reading exhibit will be open. Children should bring a copy of their favorite book, and a photo of them with their book will be taken and placed in the picture frame. Family Fun workshop

is 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; exhibit is open until 5:30 p.m. To register for the workshop, call (812) 944-7336.

■ Last Chapter Saturday, April 19, 2008. Free and open to the public. The last Saturday of the Art of Reading exhibit. Exhibit is open until 5:30 p.m. Puppet show is planned for 10:30 a.m. with Book Mark and Page, a lively puppet designed specifically for this exhibit. A story time is planned for 11 a.m., and hot dogs and snacks will be served after the story time.

For more information about the exhibit, call the Carnegie Center for Art & History at (812) 944-7336.

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