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Media Contact:

Krissi Reeves
Wyatt Brand
krissi@wyattbrand.com
512.904.9928

Creative Arts Center of Dallas Celebrates 50 Years of Innovative and Transformational Arts Education in North Texas

CAC's Golden Anniversary Programming to Offer a Spectacular Calendar of Events, Exhibitions and Creative Projects Celebrating the Center's Past, Present and Future

Dallas, Texas (February 2016) –Since 1966, Creative Arts Center of Dallas has served as a lively hub for established and emerging artists to discover, develop and express their artistic vision. Founded by acclaimed Mexican-American artist, Octavio Medellín, CAC is a cardinal institution in the Dallas arts community and continues to define itself as a vital destination for art classes and cultural development. To celebrate their hallmark 50th year in operation, Creative Arts Center, under the direction of executive director, Diana Pollak, will offer a dynamic calendar of programming that serves to simultaneously honor the organization's past, while deepening its roots for the future. Highlights of the anniversary lineup include CAC's signature fundraising event, the Blue Plate Special Gala on April 30th, development of an Octavio Medellín Guide and Driving Tour of Dallas – highlighting the impressive installation work of the artist throughout the city, as well as expansions of the Center's already extensive outreach programs.

To kick-off their “golden” year, Creative Arts Center partnered with Latino Cultural Center for the opening reception of “The Legacy of Octavio Medellín: A Survey of His Work & Influence.” The retrospective exhibit showcases Medellín's artistic works and highlights the legacy and influence he left behind, including historical and thematic subjects of his artistic output. The exhibition also features work of Dallas-based artists influenced by Medellín, including Marty Ray, Rob Pollock, David Hickman, and Eliseo. The works are on display at Latino Cultural Center through March 31st. Creative Arts Center also recently launched a new rotating department show, “Process to Product: From Inspiration to Innovation.” The exhibit, hosted at CAC, explores the artistic process of five of the center's teaching artists and also celebrates the arts education process CAC students experience in their classes. The first installation is on view through March 26th.

Driving the center's dynamic programming and continued mission is executive director, Diana Pollak, who has served at the helm for ten years. “Creative Arts Center has been the longstanding place for seekers, leaders and thinkers to center themselves through authentic and enriching hands-on arts experiences and we look forward to fostering the next generation of Dallas artists by continuing to serve as a safe-haven to anyone seeking authenticity, connection and the opportunity to get their hands dirty whether through our classes and workshops or outreach programming for underserved groups,” shares Pollak.

Additional anniversary events include Creative Arts Center's signature Blue Plate Special fundraising event to be held on April 30th. The popular gala features a silent auction of ceramic plates custom-designed by notable local artists, CAC instructors and students. This delightful event is chaired by board members Todd C. Hedrick and Nancy Woolfolk, with Lynn Armstrong serving as a support chair and will be hosted at 7 for Parties in Turtle Creek.



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One of the most thoughtful and exciting campaign projects this year is the development of an Octavio Medellín Guide and Driving Tour of Dallas that features the artist's public and institutional work. The "map project" will offer a city-wide exploration of Medellín's art featured at buildings such as the Joule Hotel, City Performance Hall, Love Field and St. Barnard Catholic Church. This special exhibit will be introduced to the public in fall of 2016. "We are thrilled to be celebrating our 50th anniversary at a time when there is a real resurgence in the interest of our founder Octavio Medellín," says Pollak, "Octavio was a consummate artist and a true craftsman who through his teaching and influence cultivated generations of Dallas artists through authentic arts experiences. He created a valuable community asset that will be here for a long time to come."

Another integral part of Creative Arts Center's work is its scholarship and outreach programs such as Camp MetalHead and unseenamerica, which serve at-risk children and teens, as well as their pilot program, ArtAbility, that provides art instruction to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. As part of CAC's mission, these programs will continue to expand to serve the Dallas community. "It's no secret that the arts play a vital role in creating healthier, more vibrant and sustainable communities – it's something we see every day," Pollak says. "But they also build trust, facilitate cooperation and give overlooked communities a voice, while teaching all of us to look at the world and develop an aesthetic appreciation of it."

For more information on Creative Arts Center of Dallas' 50th anniversary programming, please visit: www.creativeartscenter.org

For press kit and downloadable photos, please visit: <http://www.wyattbrand.com/creative-arts-center-of-dallas/>

About Creative Arts Center of Dallas

For fifty years, the Creative Arts Center has welcomed all people across North Texas to center themselves with authentic and enriching experiences—discovering, developing and expressing their creativity. Founded by influential Texas artist Octavio Medellín, CAC's mission is to gather eager thinkers, curious leaders, dormant masters, and seekers ranging from complete beginners to working artists to have a place to facilitate the exploration of materials and ideas, getting their hands dirty along the way. Now offering as many as 500 classes annually two-acre campus four miles east of downtown Dallas, the Center boasts a family of acclaimed instructors working with students of all skill levels and goals to exchange ideas, share techniques, and explore new creative avenues in the disciplines of ceramics, clay sculpture, drawing, blown and fused glass, jewelry, metal sculpture, mixed media, mosaic, painting, photography, printmaking, stone sculpture and even creative writing. The organization proudly provides scholarships and outreach to underserved and at-risk area children and teens. Come find your place and "center yourself" at Creative Arts Center of Dallas.

About Octavio Medellín

Octavio Medellín was a Texas-based Mexican-American artist known for his work in multiple artistic disciplines including sculpture, glasswork and ceramics. Medellín enjoyed a successful and prolific career as both artist and teacher. His work has been showcased at Museum of Modern Art, New York's 1939 World's Fair, the Smithsonian and Dallas Museum of Art. His installations can be found throughout Dallas in notable buildings such as Dallas Love Field Airport, City Performance Hall and the Joule Hotel. In addition to creating art, Medellín spent decades sharing his talents as a teacher at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, now the DMA; Southern Methodist University; North Texas College, now UNT; and his own Medellín School of Sculpture, now the Creative Arts Center of Dallas. Medellín passed away in Bandera, Texas, in 1999, yet his art and legacy are very much alive.

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