



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**INNER-CITY ARTS ANNOUNCES HONOREES
FOR THE 2011 IMAGINE GALA**

Colleen Bell, Soraya Sarah Nazarian and DreamWorks Animation SKG To Be honored

Los Angeles – Inner-City Arts, a vibrant arts instruction campus and oasis of learning, achievement and creativity for at-risk children in the heart of Skid Row, will host its 2011 Imagine Awards Gala, October 27, 2011 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Honorees include Colleen Bell, Director of Special Projects at Bell-Phillip Television Productions Inc.; artist Soraya Sarah Nazarian; and DreamWorks Animation SKG, Inc. (Nasdaq: DWA).

“Our organization is so fortunate to have such extraordinary and dedicated supporters who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment as role models for civic involvement and at-risk youth,” said Cynthia Harnisch, president and CEO of Inner-City Arts. “Their vision, generosity and devotion enable us to provide the skills and tools to help the city’s students from high poverty neighborhoods unlock their potential and succeed academically and personally. With the drastic budget cuts in our school system and the opportunity for arts in the classroom dwindling every year, the work we do at Inner-City Arts is more critical than ever.”

Colleen Bell will receive the Philanthropic Leadership Award. Bell is Director of Special Projects at Bell-Phillip Television Productions Inc. which produces the daytime drama “The Bold and The Beautiful,” airing in over 100 countries around the world with 40 million daily viewers. Bell is on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Music Center and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Children’s Institute, Inc. She is a Board Member for The Rape Treatment Center UCLA/Rape Foundation and founding member of the Natural Resources Defense Council’s (NRDC) Leadership Council and Global Leadership Council. In March 2010, President Obama appointed Bell to the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts of which she was recently elected Chairman.

Soraya Sarah Nazarian will be awarded the Artistic Excellence Award. Nazarian is an Iranian-born, Los Angeles-based artist who has become a master in the medium of direct carving in stone. Her work carries themes of motherhood, family, spirituality and Iranian culture. Nazarian’s work is held in numerous private collections, and large-scale sculptures have been commissioned by cultural institutes in Israel and the United States. Recent commissions include *Sound* (2002) at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance; *Reflections* (2007) at Sapir College, near Sderot, Israel; *Legacy* (2009) at the Haifa University Library, Israel; and *Identity* (2010) at Saperstein Middle School in Los Angeles.

DreamWorks Animation SKG is the recipient of the Children's Advocacy Award. In 2008, a \$500,000 gift from The DreamWorks Animation Charitable Foundation established the DreamWorks Animation Academy at Inner-City Arts. DreamWorks Animation remains committed to providing at-risk youth with opportunities in arts education and to acquire skills needed for jobs in the creative economy. DreamWorks Animation Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Katzenberg commented, "On behalf of everyone at DreamWorks Animation, we are honored to receive the Children's Advocacy Award and we look forward to our continued work with Inner-City Arts to help talented young people achieve their potential and reach their dreams." With support from DreamWorks Animation, Inner-City Arts has expanded the reach and depth of its offerings in animation and other art forms to middle and high school students throughout Los Angeles county. DreamWorks Animation Academy programs benefit from collaborations with partner organizations such as CalArts and the USC John C. Hench Division of Animation & Digital Arts. The affiliation with DreamWorks Animation provides Inner-City Arts students with fieldtrips and includes future plans for potential internship opportunities at the DreamWorks studios.

Inner-City Arts is a learning oasis in the heart of Los Angeles' Skid Row where professional artists teach students in a real studio environment. Since its inception, Inner-City Arts has served 150,000 of the city's most at-risk children at no cost to the students. Founded in 1989, Inner-City Arts works in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to bring elementary and middle school students to the campus during the school day for instruction in the visual and performing arts. High school students participate in after-school and Saturday programs. National, long-term research proves that students who attend Inner-City Arts' classes show dramatic increases in statewide standardized test scores: 25% in math, 17% in reading, 8% in English proficiency. They also learn skills that are highly valued in the 21st century workforce such as collaboration, and creative and conceptual thinking. Most importantly, students who receive education in the arts are able to create a whole new vision of self - a new world of hope that includes accomplishment and belonging.

Inner-City Arts was recently honored by the visit of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Catherine Middleton, on July 10. The couple met with students from Frank del Olmo Elementary School and participated in art programs including painting with 5th graders in a visual arts workshop, and doing ceramics with 3rd and 4th graders. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge also joined an audience of 125 children and supporters to watch a performance by the Inner-City Arts Repertory Dance Company, a troupe of 16 high school students.

Inner-City Arts 2011 Imagine Awards Gala will be produced for the third consecutive year by Scott Mauro, Executive Producer of Scott Mauro Entertainment, Inc. Tickets are priced from \$500. For information, contact Grant Associates, the event's coordinator, at (323) 904-4400 or visit www.inner-cityarts.org.

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