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**History Marches Into Midland Center for the Arts
*Current Offerings Breaking Attendance Records***

Midland, MI – History marched into Midland Center for the Arts when two of China’s famous terracotta warriors were loaned to the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art for a three-month long exhibition. With the exhibit and other related programming, the march of history continued in another direction – with record-breaking attendance by students and a record number of individual visits.

The influx began with “Timeless Warriors and Relics: 1500 Years of Ancient China,” the one-of-a-kind exhibition of two stunning terracotta warriors from Emperor Qin Shihuang’s underground army of the afterlife. An exhibit of modern warriors by sculptor Wanxin Zhang and a display of armor are adding to the allure of the terracotta warrior exhibit.

The momentum continued with the January 26 opening of Grossology, a science-in-disguise exhibition where kids get the answers to many of the slimy, oozy, crusty, and stinky questions they absolutely love to ask about the human body, and continued on with a recent Midland Symphony Orchestra performance March 1 by the husband and wife team, Angela Cheng & Alvin Chow.

A few interesting facts:

- So far, more than 13,000 students have toured the China & Grossology exhibits as part of their educational experience.
- The total museum admissions for January 20 – February 29, 2008 were 20,932 people. That’s a 60% increase over the same timeframe when averaging attendance in 2005-2007.
- Even though other Alden B. Dow Museum blockbusters, including “A T. Rex Called SUE,” “Egypt in the Age of the Pharaohs,” “The Nature of Diamonds,” and “Pearls: A Natural History” were successful, the Timeless Warriors exhibition has exceeded projections by 23%.

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- About 5,000 students (ranging in hometown from Alma to Gladwin) are signed-up to attend special showings of "Reflections of the Yellow River" March 24 and 25. This is an authentic Chinese art performance by the Yulin Folk Art Troupe from the Shaanxi Province of China. These performances have been generously sponsored by The Dow Chemical Company, Northwest Airlines, Dow Corning Corporation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, and the Maxwell K. Pribil Fund administered by Citizen's Bank Wealth Management.
- Tickets are going quickly for the public performance of Reflections of the Yellow River, which will be March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center. A vice governor of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government, Hong Feng, will be an honored guest and will present a special gift from the Chinese government to the Center.

"This has been an exciting time at the Center and we are thrilled that the community is responding to our programming in such a positive way," says Bill Henninger, president and CEO, MCFTA. "We are grateful to the many people who have come together as sponsors to support our mission and the China festival, especially The Dow Chemical Company, Northwest Airlines and many others."

Tickets are still available for the performance, and are \$15/adult, \$7/child, and \$40/per family of two adults and two children. Tickets may be purchased online www.mcfta.org or at the Ticket Office (631-8250 or 1-800-523-7649).

About Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. (MCFTA). MCFTA is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

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