

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2010

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art presents:

What: Lecture: "The Role of the Great Lakes and Our Water in Economic and Social Development" by John Austin

When: Thursday, March 11 – 7 pm

Where: Garden Room, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640

Cost: General Admission \$8; Members \$5

Information: Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org

Ticket "Buy Page":

http://www.mcfta.org/A_ABDow/waterworks_index.html#waterlecture

MIDLAND - John Austin, Director of the Great Lakes Economic Initiative for the Brookings Institution, will present a lecture: **"The Role of the Great Lakes and Our Water in Economic and Social Development"** on Thursday, March 11 at 7 pm. Mr. Austin is a respected public policy analyst and a featured speaker around the Great Lakes on the economy of the region, and in particular the role of the Great Lakes, our water and natural resources as assets. Cost is \$8 general admission; \$5 Museum members. Participants will be admitted to *WaterWorks* exhibition for member rate (\$3). For information and to buy tickets call MCFTA Ticket Office at (989)631-8259 or visit www.mcfta.org



SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHY: John Austin, 47, is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution, as well as a Michigan statewide elected official, re-elected in 2008 to his second-term as Vice-President of the Michigan State Board of Education. Mr. Austin is also a resident scholar at the University of Michigan - Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy (IRLEE).

Austin currently directs the Great Lakes Economic Initiative for the Brookings Institution, designed to improve the economic vitality of the Great Lakes states. Austin has authored key Brookings reports that have directly shaped the region's economic development agenda: "The Vital Center: A Federal-State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region;" "The Vital Connection: Reclaiming Great Lakes Economic Leadership in the Bi-National Great Lakes Region;" and "Healthy Waters, Strong Economy" (See www.brookings.edu/projects/great-lakes.aspx). Austin is a respected public policy analyst and featured speaker around the Great Lakes on the economy of the region, and in particular the role of the Great Lakes, our water and natural resources as asset.

In recent years Mr. Austin has served as Policy Director for Michigan's Governor-appointed Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, and was principal author of the Commission's influential report. He also was the founding Director of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan—a \$100 million effort by the region's philanthropies to aid in the area's

economic transformation. In 2002 he co-authored the report Revitalizing Michigan Cities, with Michigan Future, Inc., which led to Governor Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative.

Austin received his Masters in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Bachelors from Swarthmore College in Economics & Political Science, with High Honors and Phi Beta Kappa. Mr. Austin has been married 21 years to his wife Terese. They and their three school-age children reside in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art (ABDM) celebrates discovery, creativity and individual expression through art, science and the interplay between them. Exhibitions in the Museum, classes at the Museum School, multiple outreach programs, a permanent collection and various special events are all components in the ABDM programming.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. 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 and 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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