



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCFTA Board Appoints Hayes as CEO

MIDLAND - Midland Center for the Arts Board Chairman David Ramaker announces that Michael (Mike) D. Hayes has accepted the position of President and CEO of Midland Center for the Arts, effective October 4, 2010. Mr. Hayes replaces William Henninger, who passed away in July. An MCFTA search committee recently concluded a 2-1/2 month process in which several possible candidates were considered. Based on the recommendation of the committee, the MCFTA Board of Directors approved the appointment of Mr. Hayes in a unanimous vote.

"Our audiences can look forward to a continued tradition of performances, exhibitions and educational opportunities that meet and exceed expectations," comments Mr. Ramaker. "The Board is confident that Mike's leadership will allow our organization to thrive in a world filled with economic challenges and changing audience demographics."

Mike has served on the MCFTA Board of Directors, as well as on the MATRIX:MIDLAND Advisory Board. He was instrumental in bringing the 2008 exhibition "Timeless Warriors and Relics: 1500 Years of Ancient China" to the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, the highlight of which was two of China's famous terracotta warriors.

"Midland Center for the Arts is a center of gravity for culture in this region, and it will remain that way," remarks Mr. Hayes. "The Center will stay the course that Bill Henninger set for us: continued focus on fund development efforts, expanding the Center's regional draw, and enhancing its educational offerings while continuing to delight audiences with performances, the visual arts, and historical exhibitions."

Mike moved to Midland 37 years ago to work at the Midland County Courthouse. The cultural offerings at the recently completed Midland Center for the Arts were a big factor in his decision to relocate from Mt. Pleasant to Midland. Over the years, his family has participated in Center Stage Theatre's Peanut Gallery productions, and enjoyed a wide variety of performances.

Mike served four terms as a State Representative in the Michigan Legislature. Following his legislative career, he joined Dow in 1989 assuming numerous Public Affair roles over the years. Mike concluded his career at Dow as Vice President of Executive Relations which included management of community, business, and governmental relationships at the executive level for Dow's global headquarters. After retiring from Dow, Mike founded Main Street Consulting, specializing in community relations and economic development. He also serves as the vice president and secretary of the Michigan Baseball Foundation Board of Directors.

Currently, Mike serves as a member of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, is a past chair of the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He also serves as a member of Midland Downtown Development Authority Board, Midland Tomorrow Board, SVSU Foundation Board, and the Great Lakes Bay Region Alliance Board of Directors. He is a Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Mike was recognized in 2009 with an Honorary Doctorate of Commercial Science and previously the Distinguished Alumnus Award by Central Michigan University where he earned his BS and MS degrees. Midland Tomorrow awarded him the annual Community Partner Award in 2008 in recognition of his success at bringing together private sector, government, and community leaders for economic development.

Mike lives in Midland with his wife, Debbie, a retired educator. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

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, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. 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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