



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2010

Midland Center for the Arts Experiences the Unexpected Loss of President and CEO, William Henninger

MIDLAND - William Henninger, President and CEO of Midland Center for the Arts, died unexpectedly in Midland on July 1, 2010, the result of a heart attack.

MCFTA Board of Directors has formed a search committee to work on replacement of the CEO position. Day-to-day operations will continue through Center staff leadership. "Bill was a selfless man whose energy and regional approach to the arts will be deeply missed," remarks Don Sheets, Center Board Chair. "He provided unwavering leadership and commitment to the Center, lived life to the fullest and leaves behind a legacy of an arts world that is rich, deep and accessible to all."

Since 1972, Bill had been actively involved at the Center, in the role of musician, volunteer, patron, and board member of Music Society and Midland Symphony Orchestra. He had a profound love and appreciation for the arts and a vision for what the Center could be.

Following a 30-year career at Dow Corning Corporation, Bill turned his passion for the arts into his day job when he accepted the position of President and CEO of Midland Center for the Arts in 2006.

In his position as CEO, he was instrumental in implementing changes in the governance structure of the Center and in leading the organization through a transitional timeframe including facing the challenges during the recent economic downturn. He led with integrity and compassion for fellow colleagues.

MCFTA Board member Mike Hayes remembers Bill as a "man of many talents. He was a personal friend and professional colleague who always had a passion for advancing the arts. With today's changing audiences, he was able to bring the arts together to maintain the success of Midland Center for the Arts."

In fact, Bill was passionate about involving community leaders in shaping the future of arts and was involved in every detail of a recent Center-wide fundraising effort, which will enable the Center to end its 2010 fiscal year debt-free – a remarkable achievement for a non-profit in today's economic climate.

His devotion and commitment to his family, the Center, the staff, the volunteers, and our community touched countless lives. It is with sorrow and sadness we say goodbye to a leader and a friend.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 8, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, and children, Matt and Dana. For those planning an expression of sympathy, the family requests that memorial gifts be offered to Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640.

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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