



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 30, 2009

**UPDATED: December 31, 2009**

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
Announces the  
*Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative*  
50 State Tour**

**President Michael M. Kaiser to Travel to all 50 States,  
Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., to Assist Organizations in Need**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is taking part in a national tour for *Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative*. Kennedy Center President, Michael M. Kaiser travels to all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to lead arts management symposia. At each event, hosted by a local arts organization, Kaiser will address the challenges facing non-profit performing arts organizations today through such areas as fundraising, building more effective Boards of Trustees, budgeting, and marketing.

Since the initiative's launch in February 2009, the Kennedy Center has hosted symposia and arts community conversations in major cities across the country, including Boston, Chicago, San Diego, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Baltimore, Detroit, Cleveland, New York City, Indianapolis, Louisville, Nashville, Charlotte, Seattle, Grand Rapids, St. Louis, Kansas City, Houston, Dallas, Orlando, Miami, and Washington, D.C. Upcoming tour dates will include 35 cities in 31 states, including Honolulu, San Juan, Atlanta, Bismarck, Phoenix, Santa Fe, Albany, Lincoln, Pierre, Portland, Anchorage, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Boise to extend his arts management expertise and personal support throughout the nation. A complete listing may be found on the following page.

"Each locality is dealing with its own unique and specific challenges, and there is no better way to understand each region than through in-person visits," said Kaiser. "Communicating in person allows us to be more effective in advising organizations in need."

*Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative* is a response to the emergency facing arts organizations throughout the United States. The program, open to non-profit 501(c)(3) performing arts organizations, provides free and confidential planning assistance in areas pertinent to maintaining a vital

performing arts organization during a troubled economy. The program is currently working with almost 500 organizations in 40 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. More than 120 experienced arts leaders from across the country are volunteering their time to serve as mentors to organizations in need.

A list of upcoming *Arts in Crisis* symposia is below. Additional dates will be announced on [www.artsincrisis.org](http://www.artsincrisis.org) in the coming weeks.

## **Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative 50 State Tour**

### **DATES FOR 2009:**

<b>March 18</b>	<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>New College Theatre</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Chicago, IL</b>	<b>Goodman Theatre</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Washington, DC</b>	<b>The Kennedy Center</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>San Diego, CA</b>	<b>Joe and Vi Jacobs Center</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Philadelphia, PA</b>	<b>The Performance Garage</b>
<b>May 11</b>	<b>San Francisco, CA</b>	<b>The Commonwealth Club</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sacramento, CA</b>	<b>Jean Runyon Little Theater</b>
<b>May 21</b>	<b>Baltimore, MD</b>	<b>Baltimore Museum of Art</b>
<b>June 25</b>	<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>Max M. Fisher Music Center</b>
<b>July 14</b>	<b>New York, NY</b>	<b>The Desmond Tutu Center</b>
<b>July 22</b>	<b>Cleveland, OH</b>	<b>The Hanna Building at PlayhouseSquare</b>
<b>July 23</b>	<b>Kalamazoo, MI</b>	<b>Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>Clowes Memorial Hall, Butler University</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Louisville, KY</b>	<b>Actors Theatre of Louisville</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Lexington, KY</b>	<b>ArtsPlace</b>
<b>August 13</b>	<b>Nashville, TN</b>	<b>Nashville Children's Theatre</b>
<b>August 14</b>	<b>Charlotte, NC</b>	<b>Booth Playhouse, The Blumenthal Center</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Richmond, VA</b>	<b>Richmond Marriott Downtown</b>
<b>August 20</b>	<b>Seattle, WA</b>	<b>Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall</b>
<b>August 21</b>	<b>Tacoma, WA</b>	<b>Pantages Theatre Lobby</b>
<b>August 24</b>	<b>Madison, WI</b>	<b>Overture Center for the Arts, Capitol Theatre</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>St. Paul, MN</b>	<b>Ordway Center for the Arts, McKnight Theatre</b>

<b>September 30</b>	<b>Grand Rapid, MI</b>	<b>Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum</b>
<b>October 8</b>	<b>Los Angeles, CA</b>	<b>California African American Museum</b>
<b>October 14</b>	<b>Tulsa, OK</b>	<b>Studio K, Kivisto Hall</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>St. Louis, MO</b>	<b>The Sheldon Concert Hall</b>
<b>November 18</b>	<b>Kansas City, MO</b>	<b>Lyric Theatre</b>
<b>November 19</b>	<b>Wichita, KS</b>	<b>Mary Jane Teall Theater, Century II</b>
<b>November 20</b>	<b>Des Moines, IA</b>	<b>The Temple for Performing Arts</b>
<b>November 30</b>	<b>Dallas, TX</b>	<b>Latino Cultural Center</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>Houston, TX</b>	<b>Moores Opera House, University of Houston</b>
<b>December 2</b>	<b>San Antonio, TX</b>	<b>San Pedro Playhouse</b>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>Orlando, FL</b>	<b>Crown Plaza Downtown</b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Miami, FL</b>	<b>Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts</b>
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Honolulu, HI</b>	<b>Mission Memorial Auditorium</b>
<b>December 17</b>	<b>Maui, HI</b>	<b>Maui Arts and Cultural Center</b>

**DATES FOR 2010:**

<b>January 21</b>	<b>Meridian, MS</b>	<b>MSU Riley Center</b>
<b>January 22</b>	<b>Birmingham, AL</b>	<b>Birmingham Children's Theatre</b>
<b>February 2</b>	<b>New Orleans, LA</b>	<b>Le Petit Theatre</b>
<b>February 5</b>	<b>San Juan, PR</b>	<b>El Museo de Arte Theatre</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Charleston, SC</b>	<b>Simmons Center for the Arts</b>
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Atlanta, GA</b>	<b>Ferst Center for the Arts</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Wilmington, DE</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Newark, NJ</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Princeton, NJ</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>Billings, MT</b>	<b>Alberta Bair Theater</b>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Bismarck, ND</b>	<b>North Dakota Heritage Center</b>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Charleston, WV</b>	<b>Clay Center for the Arts &amp; Sciences</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Phoenix, AZ</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Tucson, AZ</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Santa Fe, NM</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Pittsburgh, PA</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>

<b>April 27</b>	<b>Albany, NY</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Lincoln, NE</b>	<b>Lied Center for the Performing Arts</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Pierre, SD</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>Portland, OR</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Las Vegas, NV</b>	<b>Smith Center for the Performing Arts</b>
<b>May 20</b>	<b>Anchorage, AK</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Hartford, CT</b>	<b>St. Joseph Center for the Performing Arts – The Carol Autorino Center</b>
<b>June 10</b>	<b>New Haven, CT</b>	<b>Yale University Art Gallery</b>
<b>June 22</b>	<b>Concord, NH</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>June 23</b>	<b>Providence, RI</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Portland, ME</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>July 2</b>	<b>Burlington, VT</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>July 8</b>	<b>Little Rock, AR</b>	<b>William J. Clinton Presidential Center</b>
<b>July 13</b>	<b>Denver, CO</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>July 14</b>	<b>Casper, WY</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Salt Lake City, UT</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>July 16</b>	<b>Boise, ID</b>	<b>Venue TBA</b>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Washington, DC</b>	<b>The Kennedy Center</b>

“Nearly six million people make their living in the non-profit arts industry and arts and cultural activities contribute more than \$160 billion to our economy every year,” said First Lady Michelle Obama. “The President provided an additional \$50 million in funding to the NEA in the Recovery Act to preserve jobs in state arts agencies and regional arts organizations in order to keep them up and running during the economic downturn. Our future as an innovative country depends on ensuring that everyone has access to the arts and to cultural opportunities and the Arts in Crisis initiative addresses this important intersection of creativity and commerce.”

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi stated, “Arts organizations are facing the same challenges as America’s families and communities; in this recession, it is tough to make ends meet. Yet as President John F. Kennedy once said, ‘The life of the arts – far from being an interruption in the life of a nation – is very close to the center of a nation’s purpose.’ That is why I applaud Michael Kaiser and the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Crisis initiative, which is helping to preserve arts organizations that are struggling

during this difficult time. In so doing, we are ensuring a vibrant cultural life for our nation for generations to come.”

“The recent closure of the Las Vegas Art museum – which had been operating continuously since 1974 – shows that this economic recession is taking a serious toll on our art institutions in Nevada and throughout our nation,” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. “The Kennedy Center’s *Arts in Crisis* provides hands-on training that will enable struggling arts organizations to emerge from the economic downturn stronger than ever. I know that the arts in Nevada will benefit from the Kennedy Center’s expert advice and I look forward to Mr. Kaiser’s visit to my state.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell commended, “Like many Kentuckians, I appreciate the contributions of the arts and humanities in enriching our communities and I would like to thank the Kennedy Center for lending its considerable fundraising and management expertise to help local arts agencies weather these difficult times.”

“At this time of economic challenge for our country, families and small businesses are struggling to make ends meet, and the same can be said of arts organizations throughout our nation,” concluded House Minority Leader John Boehner. “I commend Michael Kaiser and the Kennedy Center for stepping up to help arts organizations in communities across America weather the storm, sharing their expertise and counsel at a time when they’re needed most.”

*Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative* also enables senior arts managers across the United States to volunteer to serve as mentors to other arts organizations. “There are many talented arts administrators around the country, and we encourage them to lend their expertise,” said Michael Kaiser. “If all of us work together, we can turn a time of crisis into a time of opportunity.”

Non-profit performing arts organizations who would like to participate in the program should visit [www.artsincrisis.org](http://www.artsincrisis.org) to submit an online request. The Kennedy Center will quickly match organizations in need with a member of the Kennedy Center executive staff or a volunteer mentor in their local area.

Since 2001, Michael M. Kaiser and his executive staff have shaped numerous arts leaders through the Kennedy Center Institute for Arts Management. The Institute provides a wide variety of training and support for arts management, including a capacity building program for culturally specific arts organizations; a program to train board members of arts organizations throughout the United States; international capacity building programs for arts organizations in 60 nations; a capacity building program for over 280 arts organizations in New York City; and [artsmanager.org](http://artsmanager.org), an interactive web

resource for arts management professionals. The Kennedy Center also offers internship and fellowship programs, exposing arts professionals to various facets of arts management.

*Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative* is funded by Helen Lee Henderson and Adrienne Arsht.

**For more information about *Arts in Crisis: A Kennedy Center Initiative*,  
please visit [artsincrisis.org](http://artsincrisis.org).**

# # # # #

**PRESS CONTACT\***:

John Dow

The Kennedy Center

(202) 416-8448

[jrdow@kennedy-center.org](mailto:jrdow@kennedy-center.org)

*\*Please do not publish this information.*