

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business for the Arts announces 2013 winners of Edmund C. Bovey Award and Arnold Edinborough Award

Gary Slaight and Stephen Delaney to be celebrated at 35th Annual National Business for the Arts Partnerships Awards on November 15 at the Carlu in Toronto

(TORONTO, ON – July 3, 2013) Business for the Arts, Canada’s national association of business leaders who support the arts, is pleased to announce **Gary Slaight** as the 2013 winner of The Edmund C. Bovey Award and **Stephen Delaney** as the 2013 winner of The Arnold Edinborough Award. The winners, who were revealed at a reception on July 3 at the Canadian Film Centre, will receive their awards at the 35th Annual National Business for the Arts Partnerships Awards on Friday, November 15, 2013 at the Carlu in Toronto.

About Gary Slaight

As President & CEO of Slaight Communications Inc. and Slaight Music, **Gary Slaight** has been a staunch supporter of Canadian musicians and actors as well as a champion of arts education. The Slaight Family Foundation supports a number of initiatives including the Slaight Family Music Lab at the Canadian Film Centre, the Slaight Family Music Program at Soulpepper, and the Slaight Family Fund for Emerging Artists at The National Arts Centre Foundation, which are focused on the development and training of up-and-coming artists. The Slaight Family Academy at the Shaw provides training programs for actors and a drama course for students in Grades 4 to 12. Gary has not only helped to shape the arts in Canada through his companies, but also through his extensive philanthropy and volunteer membership on many not-for-profit boards. He was inducted into the Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame in 2005, and received a 2012 JUNO Award for his contributions to the Canadian music industry.

About Stephen Delaney

Stephen Delaney is a Senior Associate in Corporate Finance at Paradigm Capital Inc. He is actively involved with the Toronto arts community as the chair of the board for Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie, a contemporary dance company based in Regent Park; as a committee member for AGO Next, a young patrons program at the Art Gallery of Ontario; as co-founder and current chair of CreatiVenture Collective, a grassroots organization assisting small to mid-tier dance organizations with fundraising and audience development; and as co-chair of the Gatsby Gala in support of Canada’s National Ballet School. He has invested many volunteer hours championing a better society through arts engagement and inspiring his peers to become actively involved in philanthropy and volunteerism. In addition to receiving his award at the November 15 gala, Stephen will be celebrated at The Arnold Party later this year.



“We are delighted to congratulate Gary and Stephen on their awards, and we applaud their leadership and dedication in support of arts and culture in Canada,” said Nichole Anderson, President & CEO of Business for the Arts. “Both Gary and Stephen set an incredible example of what can be achieved when business and the arts connect, and cast a bright light on the importance of volunteerism and private sector investment in the arts. We look forward to celebrating with them at our gala in November.”

“I am honoured to be recognized for work that I love to do,” said Gary Slaight. “Philanthropy was instilled in me at an early age by my parents. Our family has always believed in the importance of giving back, and in particular in the support and development of Canadian talent. Our programs at the Shaw, National Arts Centre, Canadian Film Centre, Soulepepper and many others help fulfill that passion. It has been incredibly rewarding to see young artists grow and succeed as part of this process.”

“I believe that we all have the ability to shape society around us by supporting the causes we care about, volunteering our time and energy, and donating when able,” said Stephen Delaney. “For me, the arts are an integral part of what makes life beautiful, so I feel a responsibility to support the organizations I love. It is wonderful to know that you are helping an artist produce more work, or more young dancers able to attend ballet school, and I am ecstatic to be recognized by BftA for doing work that I believe is essential to making my city and country a better place.”

About the Awards

Each year, the **National Business for the Arts Partnerships Awards** bring together more than 400 of Canada’s foremost business and arts leaders to celebrate the extraordinary contributions made by individual business leaders and companies who have shown outstanding commitment to the arts through unique and innovative partnerships. The awards presentation also includes The Globe and Mail Business for the Arts Partnership Awards, which will be announced at a later date.

The Edmund C. Bovey Award is named after the founding Chairman of Business for the Arts, and honours a business professional who has demonstrated a lifetime of significant support and/or leadership in arts and culture in Canada. This year’s winner receives a sculpture and will be able to direct \$20,000 of the Bovey Award fund to an arts organization(s) of their choice.

The Arnold Edinborough Award is named after the first President of Business for the Arts and recognizes a business professional under 40 who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and volunteerism in the arts. The winner receives a work of art by an emerging Canadian artist and \$5,000 to be given to the arts organization(s) of their choice.

For complete information on the 2013 gala, visit the Business for the Arts website at www.bftaawards.com.

2013 Awards Gala Partners:

Presenting Partner: Sun Life Financial

Arnold Edinborough Award Partner: Michael Vukets & Associates



Arnold Party Presenting Partner: Aeroplan
Official Media Partners: The Globe and Mail, CBC

Founded in 1974, **Business for the Arts** Business for the Arts works to ensure the stability and growth of Canada's arts and culture sector through a cohesive set of programs and initiatives that bring the public, private and arts sector together as partners in art. For more information, visit www.businessforthearts.org.

For more information, please contact:

Christine Amendola
Marketing and Communications Manager
Business for the Arts
416-869-3016 ext. 230
c_amendola@businessforthearts.org