

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business for the Arts announces The Hon. Hilary M. Weston as recipient of Edmund C. Bovey Award; Chris Farias to receive Arnold Edinborough Award

Award winners to be celebrated at the 2014 Canadian Arts and Business Awards on November 14, 2014 at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto

(TORONTO, ON – July 17, 2014) Business for the Arts, Canada’s national charitable association of business members who support the arts, is delighted to announce **The Hon. Hilary M. Weston** as the 2014 recipient of the Edmund C. Bovey Award and **Chris Farias** of Hamilton, Ont., as the recipient of the 2014 Arnold Edinborough Award. The winners will receive their awards at the 2014 Canadian Arts and Business Awards, presented by Business for the Arts, on Friday, November 14, 2014 at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. Business for the Arts will also be celebrating its 40th anniversary and four decades of investing in communities to strengthen Canada’s cultural assets.

The Hon. Hilary M. Weston served as the 26th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario from 1997 to 2002. After leaving public office, she chaired the Renaissance ROM fundraising campaign, transforming the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto through the largest and most successful campaign in Canadian cultural history, raising more than \$300 million. In 2011, she initiated the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction, the most valuable nonfiction prize in Canada. Mrs. Weston is Chair of the Advisory Council of Operation Entrepreneur, one of the Prince of Wales’s Charities Canada; and has been the Honorary Chair of the Governor General’s Performing Arts Awards and is an ongoing supporter of the National Arts Centre. With her husband, Galen, Mrs. Weston built Windsor, a village by the sea, in Vero Beach, Florida. She now oversees The Gallery at Windsor, which has achieved an international reputation for exhibiting some of today’s important artists.

“I am honoured to receive the Edmund C. Bovey Award and to be among such an esteemed group of winners,” said Mrs. Weston. “Supporting the arts has been a lifelong passion and I thank Business for the Arts for including me among its 2014 Canadian Arts and Business Awards recipients. I look forward to attending the gala at the Aga Khan Museum in November with friends and family.”

Chris Farias, Creative Director and Partner, KITESTRING Creative Branding Studio

Since 2007, Chris Farias has been an engaged part of the arts community in Hamilton and throughout Southern Ontario, and has worked with many arts organizations to brand, market and develop campaigns to achieve awareness and increased sales, including Hamilton Arts Awards, Culture for Kids in the Arts, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, CoBALT Connects, Double Barrel Studios, Black Box Fire Theatre Company, Hammer Entertainment, and visual artist Stephanie Seagram. In addition to his work with KITESTRING, Chris donates his support, time and expertise to a range of arts-based causes, charitable ventures, and not-for-profit organizations. He is a board member and current vice chair of



Culture for Kids in the Arts; a long-time supporter of Art Crawl; a patron of art galleries, live theatre, music venues and film festivals; and a champion of local talent. As a columnist for Hamilton Business in *The Hamilton Spectator*, Chris is able to inspire others to experience, support and explore arts with the goal of enriching the individual as well as the collective community.

“I would like to thank Business for the Arts for this wonderful recognition,” said Chris Farias. “As someone who believes in the transformative power of community engagement and volunteerism, I am thrilled to receive the Arnold Edinborough Award and to draw attention to all the amazing things happening in my Hamilton community.”

“We are thrilled to congratulate Mrs. Weston and Chris on their well-earned awards,” said Nichole Anderson, President & CEO of Business for the Arts. “We applaud their leadership and commitment in support of arts and culture both locally and across the country. They each set an inspiring example of what can be achieved through volunteerism and investment in our creative sector. We are honoured to have them among our 2014 award winners and part of our 40th anniversary celebration on November 14 at the beautiful Aga Khan Museum.”

Each year, the **Canadian Arts and Business Awards** bring together Canada’s foremost business and arts leaders to celebrate the extraordinary contributions made by individuals and companies who have shown outstanding commitment to the arts through philanthropy, volunteerism and innovative partnerships. Other award categories include artsVest™ Outstanding Partnership Award; Corporate Champion of the Arts Award; Cultural Champion Award – Corporate Leadership; Cultural Champion Award – Arts Leadership; and Community Impact Award. Award winners in these categories 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 more information on the 2014 awards, visit www.bftaawards.com

2014 Canadian Arts and Business Awards Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor: Sun Life Financial

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About the Aga Khan Museum

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto is dedicated to the intellectual, cultural and artistic heritage of Islamic civilizations. Through art, performances, exhibitions, research, education and collaboration with other leading international institutions, the Aga Khan Museum promotes knowledge of the contributions of Islamic civilizations to world heritage.

About Business for the Arts

Founded in 1974, Business for the Arts is Canada's only national charitable organization of business members who support the arts. Our vision is to inspire Canada's business community to partner with the arts to ensure a thriving cultural sector. We connect, educate and invest to bridge the gap between business and the arts. For more information, visit www.businessforthearts.org.

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