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INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS & IDEAS TO HONOR SHERYL WUDUNN WITH 6TH ANNUAL VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

An accomplished business leader, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and human rights advocate, Sheryl WuDunn has dedicated her life to bettering the world around her and shedding light on issues that face women and girls around the world.

Bank of America/U.S. Trust is the Lead Corporate Sponsor of the
6th Annual Visionary Leadership Award

WHAT 6th Annual Visionary Leadership Award honoring Sheryl WuDunn

WHEN Tuesday, January 26, 2015, 12pm: Visionary Leadership Award Luncheon, Omni New Haven Hotel in New Haven.

Additional residency activities to be announced in January, 2016.

NEW HAVEN, CT—The International Festival of Arts & Ideas announced today that it will present the 6th Visionary Leadership Award to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, female rights advocate, and accomplished business leader Sheryl WuDunn. Named one of the "**150 Women Who Shake the World**" (Newsweek), it has been WuDunn's goal to raise awareness and affect change on issues that face the voiceless, such as poverty-stricken women and girls forced to turn to prostitution and the lost generation of girls resulting from China's One Child Law.

As a successful businesswoman, WuDunn has served as an executive at several major financial institutions and is currently Senior Managing Director at Mid-Market Securities, LLC. She has applied her prowess as a business leader and her dedication to women's rights to many US and international organizations working to diversify male-dominated fields and effectively promoting successful work and study environments for all women.

For many years the Festival has explored stories of oppression in our artistic and ideas programming. From the production of *Stuck Elevator* to our panel discussions on *Race and Democracy* and countless other examples the Festival is proud to highlight the stories and issues of oppression that WuDunn so eloquently gives voice to. This year's Visionary Leadership Award Luncheon, and the issues WuDunn will speak to, will set the stage for themes and topics in Festival 2016 to come.

The Festival's Visionary Leadership Award honors a leader whose trailblazing work is changing the world, and connects the Festival's programs to everyday impacts on the community. In addition to the award benefit luncheon, a complete schedule of residency events will be announced in January 2016 including opportunities for the Greater New Haven community to engage with Ms. WuDunn's extraordinary work. In conjunction with her honor from the Festival, Ms. WuDunn will also be awarded the prestigious Poynter Fellowship in Journalism from Yale University. She will meet with students at Yale as part of her schedule in New Haven.

"For two decades the Festival has been a place for the exchange of ideas. A safe place where artists illuminate important issues in our world and inspire us to consider our own role in response. Sheryl WuDunn's new project *A Path Appears*, launched in her collaboration with her award-winning journalist husband, Nicholas Kristof, gives us a platform to continue the conversation about what each of us can do to address the profound issues of our time. The clear and compelling message in their book and recent three part film series, is that we all have something to give," said Mary Lou Aleskie, Executive Director of Arts & Ideas.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

Residency and events to be announced in January 2016.

ABOUT SHERYL WUDUNN

Sheryl WuDunn, the first Asian-American reporter to win a Pulitzer Prize, is a business executive, lecturer, and best-selling author. She is a senior managing director with Mid-Market Securities, an investment banking boutique helping growth companies, including those operating in the emerging markets. Ms. WuDunn has also worked at *The New York Times* in management roles in both the Strategic Planning and Circulation Sales departments; as editor for international markets, energy and industry; as *The Times'* first anchor of an evening news headline program for a digital cable TV channel, the Discovery-Times; and as a foreign correspondent for *The Times* in Tokyo and Beijing, where she wrote about economic, financial, political, and social issues. She is co-author of *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* and *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

About the Visionary Leadership Award

The Visionary Leadership Award honors a leader whose trailblazing work is impacting the world, connecting the Festival's programs to everyday impacts on the community and the world. The award luncheon proceeds from the benefit luncheon support The Jean Handley Fund for the International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

The Award was created in honor of the late Jean M. Handley's leadership as a Founding Director of the International Festival of Arts & Ideas. Ms. Handley provided thoughtful and effective leadership as a lifelong champion of many of the region's arts, cultural, social, and educational organizations. She was a role model for women, a person of extraordinary wisdom and an individual of exceedingly high standards who was generous with her talent and time.

Prior awardees include **Angélique Kidjo**, award-winning singer/songwriter and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador (5th Annual); **Sheila Nevins**, documentary film producer and president of HBO Documentary Films (4th annual); **Charlayne Hunter-Gault**, a journalist and civil rights leader (3rd annual); **Jill Abramson**, journalist and first female Executive Editor of the *New York Times* (2nd annual); and **Zainab Salbi**, the pioneering Founder and CEO of Women For Women International (1st award).

About the International Festival of Arts & Ideas

The International Festival of Arts & Ideas is a not-for-profit presenting organization that culminates in a 15-day festival of performing arts, lectures, and conversations that celebrates the greatest artists and thinkers from around the world and our local community. Each June, the Festival takes over the theaters, open spaces, and courtyards of New Haven, Connecticut, with performances and dialogues that tickle the senses, engage the mind, and inspire the soul.

More than 80% of Festival programs are completely free to the public, including events that feature some of the most prestigious jazz, classical, dance, and theater artists in the world. The Festival's programs have an impact throughout the year, including engagement and educational programming such as the Festival Fellowship Program for underserved youth, and the Visionary Leadership Award held in the winter each year.

The International Festival of Arts & Ideas was established in 1996 by Anne Calabresi, Jean Handley, and Roslyn Meyer. The founders envisioned an annual celebration in New Haven—a small city rich with diversity and steeped in strong cultural and educational traditions— distinguished from established arts festivals by its fusion of ideas events. Their aim was to gather world-class artists and pre-eminent thinkers from around the globe, showcasing the city and the state as a major arts destination.

Festival 2015 was presented with major support from the State of Connecticut, Yale University, First Niagara Bank, the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and Comcast.

More information at ARTIDEA.ORG

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