



LEXARTS

## **Marilyn Moosnick Honored With National Award**

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Lexington, KY, April 11, 2008 --- Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America, has awarded the 2008 Michael Newton Award to Lexington's own Marilyn Moosnick. The Michael Newton Award is given to an individual, staff member, director, volunteer or member organization in recognition of his or her effective, innovative and creative fundraising techniques, distinctive management style, commitment and dedication to the united arts fund (UAF) movement.

Inspired by the success of the Louisville and Cincinnati Fine Arts Funds, a small band of arts advocates came together in the early 1970s to form the Lexington Council of the Arts – the first step in a strategy to create a unified arts community. Marilyn Moosnick was made the first Chair of the Council in 1972.

Under Marilyn's leadership the Council created a communications network involving monthly meetings and the creation of a community-wide arts calendar; worked with the Urban-County Government to renovate a former YMCA transforming it into the 16,000 square foot arts center we now know as ArtsPlace; hired its first full-time director courtesy of the Federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) and initiated an annual fund drive.

In addition to her work with the Lexington Council of the Arts (now LexArts), Marilyn served on the National Endowment for the Arts Expansion Arts Panel and served on the Kentucky Arts Council from 1976 to 1996, the longest tenure of any Council Member.

Jim Clark, President and CEO of LexArts, says "Marilyn's work as an arts advocate and volunteer is exemplary. She is a fighter, nurturer and visionary. She is the kind of volunteer who empowers and supports the artists, the arts administrators and the cultural planners. She is about the greater good of the community and creating an environment in which the arts play a significant role in economic and social development of Lexington and the Bluegrass."

### **About LexArts**

LexArts is a nonprofit community organization that works for the development of a strong and vibrant arts community as a means of enhancing the quality of life in central Kentucky. Through its annual *Campaign for the Arts*, LexArts raises millions of dollars in support of local arts. In turn, LexArts underwrites the operating expenses for a variety of Beneficiary Groups, offers affordable exhibition and performance space for arts organizations, as well as competitive grants for community outreach projects. Visit LexArts website at [www.lexarts.org](http://www.lexarts.org).

LexArts is supported in part by the Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Major support is provided by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

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