For Immediate Release

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Webster Community Arts Foundation is now "Webster Arts" Regional arts organization turns a new leaf

Webster Groves, MO – March 30 – Webster Arts announces its new brand and revised vision to promote arts in the Webster Groves community. Formerly the Webster Community Arts Foundation, Webster Arts will facilitate its 12th season of free arts programming in Webster. The name change comes in response to more than a year of strategic planning and feedback from the community.

"We've been here quietly promoting the arts for over a decade. As an organization, we strive to connect community leaders, artists, and residents, and we're increasing our visibility to cast a wider net," says Jeane Vogel, executive director of Webster Arts. "We want to engage more audiences and artists with the free arts programming we put on year-round."

Webster Arts will continue to deliver Art&Air, the Webster Arts Fair, set for June 5-7 on the fairgrounds of Eden Seminary. As a premier regional arts festival, the Webster Arts Fair draws in over 100 juried artists from around the nation as well as crowds of over 20,000. As always, the Webster Arts Fair is free of cost and open to the public.

Other free Webster Arts_programming includes:

<u>Paint Webster</u>, a one-day painting competition. Open to both amateurs and professionals, the competition encourages artists of all ages to render a Webster Groves scene in 'plein air' as they paint in the outdoor spaces of our beautiful community. Coming up! Paint Webster Demo and Workshop on May 2 and Paint Webster competition on May 10.

- Classical Closing marks the annual closing day of the Webster Groves Farmers
 Market with a free concert by members of the Saint Louis Symphony. Date to be
 announced.
- Youth & Family Programming Webster Arts is committed to exposing kids to the beauty and power of art by providing art education and creative activities to the Webster Rock Hill Ministries' children's programs. This special partnership nourishes future artists in our own neighborhoods!

"In the spirit of turning a new leaf, Webster Arts is currently pursuing collaborations with other local arts organizations, small business and individuals already working to strengthen our community," says Webster Arts president Kathie Cahoon. "This fall, we'll host a community roundtable event to discuss how the arts can lead to social change in Webster and beyond."

A nonprofit organization, Webster Arts relies on the support of its community to maintain free, quality events open to the public. A working board of directors, staff and more than 350 volunteers help to carry out the Webster Arts mission and advocate for the arts.

Webster Arts raises and secures funding through both earned and contributed income to support its programs and events and ensure long-term stability. Support comes from the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Arts Commission, Union Pacific, Webster University, Webster Groves Subaru, the City of Webster Groves, Commerce Bank and Ameren Missouri.

About Webster Arts

Webster Arts brings art to life by providing opportunities for people of all ages to engage in and enjoy the arts through programs, partnerships, and collaborations. For more information, visit Webster-arts.org.