



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WASHINGTON DESIGN CENTER FALL DESIGN HOUSE PREVIEW PARTY
SUPPORTS CITY ARTS AND ITS STUDENT ARTISTS
Thursday, September 24, 6:00 –8:00 p.m.**

WASHINGTON, DC (Sept. 16, 2009) – The Washington Design Center’s Fall Design House Preview Party offers guests the first opportunity to view this year’s “Potomac Fever” Fall Design House while enjoying cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and live music. Guests will also have a chance to purchase City Arts artistic works, with proceeds benefiting the organization’s Urban Arts Mentoring Program for DC public school students. Pieces offered will range from small decorative mosaic plaques, to larger canvases done in acrylics.

“City Arts is so pleased to be given this opportunity to show off our student apprentices’ artworks at the Washington Design Center. In addition to painting an entrance mural for the Design House, our students have created several display pieces that will be featured throughout the eight rooms,” said G. Byron Peck, founder and artistic director, City Arts. “These projects support City Arts’ efforts to give our students experiences in the art and aesthetic of designing for real-life situations. All of us at City Arts are honored to participate as the Washington Design Center’s charity partner.”

All proceeds from the Preview Night will benefit City Arts and its year-round apprenticeship program. City Arts has been an integral part of the Fall Design House this year, with three custom works of art being used throughout the house. For the “Georgetown” social living room, a student artist created a 6' x 4' glass mosaic waterfall, made of mosaic tiled elements. For the “Capitol Hill” Library, artisans created two murals that convey the illusion of distant views of the US Capitol Building and the White House, as they would be seen through the windows of the library at night. Additionally, two large murals have been created for the Design House opening reception room. One mural plays off the “Potomac Fever” theme, and features a fantasy architectural landscape that includes important landmarks from the eight historic regions featured in the Design House showcase. The second mural will continue the landscape of the first onto another wall.

“We are so excited to have City Arts as our Preview Party charity for this year’s Fall Design House,” said Mitchell Ammons, director of marketing at The Washington Design Center. “Not only do they create amazing murals and mosaics all over DC to enrich neighborhoods, they have created incredible pieces for the Design House. Their pieces have added so much to our rooms and we can’t wait for everyone to see them as they tour the house.”

City Arts creates vibrant public murals and mosaics in Washington, DC and beyond through a collaborative process with community members. Since 1997, City Arts’ professional artists and student apprentices have created more than 25 high-profile artworks. The results of City Arts’ long-term dedication to enlivening neighborhoods will be seen for decades. For more information visit <http://cityartsdc.org/>.

This exciting Preview Party will be held from 6:00 –8:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 24 at The Washington Design Center inside the show house. Preview Party tickets are \$50 and available at www.dcdesigncenter.com/designhouseparty or by calling 202.646.6114.

The Washington Design Center's Fall Design House will be open to the general public September 25 through December 12, 2009, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. For more information visit www.dcdesigncenter.com.

City Arts creates large-scale public artworks with the assistance of talented DC youth. A special effort is made to recruit students who live in the neighborhoods where the artworks will be featured. Projects are conceived primarily as community artworks and youth participation is the natural outgrowth of this collaboration. The students who participate look forward to more than just a brief summer job or after-school program. They participate in yearlong paid apprenticeships and work on several different murals, mosaics, and other art forms during their time in the program. In addition to gaining marketable artistic skills and career insights, students improve their organizational habits and gain self-confidence in their artistic abilities. They also learn how to make a positive contribution toward a team effort.

In addition to benefiting these students, the community artworks enhance the quality of life for tens of thousands of residents of the District and outlying suburbs, as well as numerous tourists who visit the city. The artworks beautify the city and bring neighborhoods and participants together in a common bond of appreciation for the District's unique history.

About The Washington Design Center:

Dedicated to providing the finest in home furnishings to the design trade, The Washington Design Center houses over 60 wholesale residential, commercial and building products showrooms. Considered the mid-Atlantic region's largest resource and destination for the design industry, The Washington Design Center works closely with designers to guarantee consumers the best possible luxury shopping experience.

The Washington Design Center is located at 300 D Street, SW in Washington, D.C. Above the Federal Center SW Metro Station, The Washington Design Center is served by the Orange and Blue lines.

MMPI is a trade show and property management firm, specializing in managing buildings devoted to wholesale showrooms and commercial office space. MMPI produces more than 300 trade shows, market events and conferences each year.

MMPI manages The Merchandise Mart and 350 West Mart Center in Chicago; Market Square, the Suites at Market Square, Hamilton Market, Plaza Suites, Furniture Plaza and the National Furniture Mart in High Point, N.C.; the Architects & Designers Building and 7 W New York in New York; the Boston Design Center in Boston; the L.A. Mart in Los Angeles; and The Washington Design Center.

Vornado Realty Trust, owners of MMPI, based in New York City, is a fully integrated equity real estate investment trust. Vornado's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and are traded under the symbol VNO.

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