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ANNUAL ARTS AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO—The Arts Council of Southeast Missouri is proud to announce the winners of the 2014 Otto F. Dingeldein and Friend of the Arts Awards. Recipients of these prestigious awards were announced at the Dingeldein Gala, held in their honor on Friday, January 16th, 2015 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Historic Oliver-Leming House in Cape Girardeau.

The **Otto F. Dingeldein Award** was established in 1975 and honors living individuals whose artistic achievements have made a considerable impact on the cultural enrichment of the Cape Girardeau community. The award can be given to artists, non-artists, or to organizations.

Brenda Seyer, former art teacher and active participant in the Arts Council and Visual Arts Cooperative, was named the winner of this year's Otto F. Dingeldein Award. Her lifetime achievement as an art educator, volunteer and artist set her apart from the other nominees. She says of her passion, "Art makes life more exciting, rewarding, and beautiful. It gives you a chance to show how you feel about things with other people. It's a universal language."

The Friend of the Arts award was established in 2002 and is one of the highest honors the Arts Council can bestow upon an individual, or organization, within the community. Nominees are involved with the Arts Council in a capacity that helps the organization achieve its goals for programming and outreach. This assistance can be delivered either through the nominee's service as a volunteer, or through donations of funds or goods.

The winner of the Friend of the Arts Award this year was 573 Magazine. Murielle Gaither said of the magazine's contribution, "[Tom Smugala and 573 Magazine] helps us to be the best organization we can be...We could not get the message out there without him and the efforts of 573 Magazine."

Sponsors of the Dingeldein Gala included: Major Brands, Port Cape Girardeau, KBSI Fox 23 and MY 49, Drs. Bert and Mary Ann Kellerman, and Jerry Ford.

For biographies, or more information about the candidates, please contact Murielle Gaither at the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri.

The Arts Council of Southeast Missouri is located at 32 North Main Street in Cape Girardeau, MO. Galleries are open Tuesday- Saturday, from 10am to 4pm.

(Attached photo courtesy of: Glenn Landberg with the Southeast Missourian;
Pictured from left to right: Peter Nguyen (Arts Council Chairman), Brenda Seyer, and
Murielle Gaither (Arts Council Executive Director))