

## **Inaugural Superintendent's Gala to Benefit SCCPSS Arts Programs and Honor Those Who Have Contributed to District Arts Programs**



### **NOTE TO REPORTERS, EDITORS AND PRODUCERS:**

Please find with this message information from the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

### **SCCPSS ADVISORY: EVENT COVERAGE**

On Friday, December 8, 2017, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools will host the Inaugural Superintendent's Gala for the Arts. The black-tie event will celebrate the grand opening of our newest ESPLOST funded facility, the Yamacraw Center for Performing Arts, with performances and art exhibits by students and staff from schools throughout the district – including a performance of “A Holiday Cinderella” featuring the music of Rogers and Hammerstein.

In addition to the performances, SCCPSS Superintendent Dr. Ann Levett, will honor community leaders who have supported arts programs in the district over the years. The list of those being honored is as follows:

#### **SAVANNAH BLACK HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

##### **GALA FOR THE ARTS HONOREE: CULTURAL ARTS**

SBHF has partnered with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools for sixteen years. SBHF expands SCCPSS arts education offerings through robust cultural education programming.

#### **MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR SAVANNAH**

##### **GALA FOR THE ARTS HONOREE: VISUAL ARTS**

The Mountainfilm on Tour Savannah has afforded thousands of SCCPSS students and staff the opportunity to see amazing, unique, and inspiring stories from around the world! Through high quality film offerings, students learn about exciting experiences in film making that captures the human spirit.

#### **SAVANNAH MUSIC FESTIVAL**

##### **GALA FOR THE ARTS HONOREE: PERFORMING ARTS**

The Savannah Music Festival (SMF) has partnered with our students, administrators, educators and parents for several years. SMF continually expands SCCPSS arts education offerings, and also makes a concerted effort to train hundreds of SCCPSS teachers and provide academic resources, to assist them in developing their professional craft.

#### **FRED AND DINAH GRETSCH**

##### **GALA FOR THE ARTS HONOREE: INSPIRATION AWARD**

Gretsch drums and guitars are the preferred instruments of many studio musicians and recording artists. Fred and Dinah Gretsch have consistently supported a variety of

music education initiatives in an attempt to “enrich people’s lives through participation in music” – the stated purpose behind The Gretsch Foundation, the charitable arm of the family. Savannah-Chatham Public Schools have benefited from the Gretsch family in their support of the arts to include a \$150,000 dollar donation to supply band uniforms for the District’s *All Honors Band*; funding to support the launch of Piano Labs at Haven Elementary and Godley Station; and in 2014 the Savannah Arts Academy was recognized for excellence in music education through the prestigious *GRAMMY® Foundation’s Signature Schools Enterprise Award*, which was presented by Fred and Dinah Gretsch on behalf of the Grammy Foundation.

**THOMAS B. LOCKAMY, JR., ED.D.**

**GALA FOR THE ARTS HONOREE: IGNITE AWARD**

Thomas B. Lockamy, Jr., Ed.D., served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System from July of 2005 until his retirement in May of 2017. Under Dr. Lockamy’s leadership, schools have experienced award winning turnarounds and more families have turned to the public school system as their first choice in education. Part of the success and growth over the last decade lies in the commitment to place the arts as a strategic educational priority. We are proud to recognize his vision and leadership that has helped define the success of Savannah-Chatham Public Schools over the past decade – one that has been grounded in the belief that the arts play a critical role in education serving to ignite a passion for learning in young minds.

Following the presentations, the evening will continue with a seated dinner at Savannah Station for most of the guests, where music from local celebrity performers will continue to entertain guests throughout the night. We thank those from the community who have contributed as sponsors for this event. Funds raised from this ticketed event will be used to support arts programs at schools throughout the district.

**WHAT:** Inaugural Superintendent’s Gala for the Arts

**WHEN:** Friday, December 8, 2017

Performance-7pm

Dinner-9pm

**WHERE:**

Performance - Garrison School for the Arts, 649 West Jones Street, Savannah.

Dinner – Savannah Station, 601 Cohen St, Savannah