

**MIKE BUCHANON HONORED WITH PLAQUE BY ARTS OF SOUTHERN KENTUCKY**

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BOWLING GREEN, KY – On Wednesday, October 27th, at 10:00 a.m., Arts of Southern Kentucky will honor Judge-Executive Michael O. Buchanon with a reception and plaque unveiling on behalf of the citizens of Southern Kentucky in recognition of his role in securing funding for the continued operations of the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC).

Arts of Southern Kentucky President and CEO Jeff Reed said, “Acknowledging Judge Buchanon’s role in obtaining significant funding for SKyPAC’s continued operations is long overdue. It is not an overstatement to say that the building would not be open, but for Buchanon’s leadership. It is highly unusual for a county executive to be so supportive of the arts. The plaque on the front of the building is a small way to show our community’s gratitude, but I hope that it will serve as a timeless reminder of the impact the judge has made on the arts in our region.”

In 2012, after 11 years, SKyPAC became a reality through a bipartisan effort initiated by Jody Richards, Democrat Representative, and Republican Michael Buchanon, Warren County Judge-Executive. In 2000, a major financial hurdle was overcome with a $6.77 million appropriation from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, paving the way for SKyPAC’s planning and design. After SKyPAC opened, the organization experienced multiple budgetary shortfalls. Judge Buchanon and the Warren Fiscal Court continued to infuse money into the organization to keep the doors open. Judge Buchanon also spearheaded the development of Arts of Southern Kentucky, the new management organization which resulted from a merger between the Orchestra Kentucky and SKyPAC Foundation boards of directors.

“SKyPAC would not still exist if Mike Buchanon had not supported SKyPAC Foundation repeatedly,” said Katherine Sikora, past board chair of the SKyPAC Foundation. “Mike was an invaluable source to me when I chaired the organization. He took many calls, meetings, and emails without complaint. He knew the economic impact SKyPAC was providing and how invaluable that would be in the future of not just Warren County, but each county in the BRADD area. The arts impact and touch lives in ways we may not see daily, but Mike understands that. Mike’s leadership will leave a footprint for many generations to come, and a difference that truly impacts us all. He is SKyPAC’s angel. I, for one, cannot thank him enough.”

“I greatly appreciate the board's recognition of my support for SKyPAC and Orchestra Kentucky, which are a treasure to the people of the region,” said Judge Buchanon. “The value of the arts and entertainment to the quality of life for the people of our community is immeasurable. I am so thankful to the board, management and staff of ASK (Arts of Southern Kentucky) for the great work they’re doing to assure that future generations enjoy the artistic talents of those who perform in this theater or display their work in this beautiful venue. “

For more information, visit www.theskypac.com or call (270) 904-5000.

Arts of Southern Kentucky - Orchestra Kentucky merged into Arts of Southern Kentucky, Inc. to oversee the management of the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) in late 2020 to serve a common mission: providing access to the Arts to the community, through performances, shared experiences, and education. The restructuring was approved by the unanimous vote of both organizations’ boards of directors, with the assistance of the Warren County Fiscal Court and Judge Michael O. Buchanon. As a result of the restructuring Arts of Southern Kentucky is poised to overcome the challenges posed by the current global pandemic and to ensure access to arts, arts education, and entertainment for future audiences. The new organization is led administratively and artistically by Jeffrey Reed.

Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center - A premier entertainment center, SKyPAC is a multi-use facility located in downtown Bowling Green, KY. SKyPAC is owned by the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center, Inc. and was previously managed by the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Foundation, Inc., which dissolved in late 2020. The facility includes an 1,800-seat state-of-the-art auditorium including The Renshaw Education Center, which houses the Carol Wedge Studio Theater - a flexible 2,600 sq. ft. space for intimate productions and gatherings; several multi-functional rehearsal halls/classrooms; a children’s art gallery and a main gallery.

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