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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOWN HALL THEATRE AWARDED OHIO ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - Town Hall Theatre will be one of the recipients of the 2008 Ohio Arts Council Grants awarded annually to arts programs throughout the state. Town Hall Theatre has been awarded a **\$12,525** Operating Support Grant for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

These grant dollars will help offset the township's costs for the 2008-2009 theatre season, titled "Pure Imagination!" season, which features eight shows, including productions of *101 Dalmatians*, *Madeline's Christmas* and *Willy Wonka*. Additionally, OAC funds will be used to fund guest artist contracts and theatre classes.

"We're very grateful for the council's continuing support. The grant is helping Washington Township provide a professional quality children's theatre experience to thousands of young people each year," said Washington Township Recreation Facilities Director Dave Paice. Last year, more than 25,000 theatre-goers experienced over 350 children and adults participate in Town Hall Theatre programs.

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically. With funds from the Ohio Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, the OAC provides financial assistance to artists and arts organizations. On June 30, 2008 the Ohio Arts Council awarded 480 grants totaling \$7,876,540 to support

arts organizations and arts programs across Ohio during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The board had reviewed over 549 grant requests totaling nearly \$17 million.

Organizations that receive OAC funds are required to match state tax dollars with additional public and private funds. In general, for every state tax dollar invested, \$45 is raised in matching funds by recipient organizations.

Town Hall Theatre received its funding through the Sustainability Program, which provides two-year grants to organizations for annual arts programming or a recurring single project or activity. The program supports organizations that offer broad-based arts programming in any discipline (multiarts, performing arts, literature, traditional arts, visual arts) that is produced and presented by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, other nonprofit or government entities, and colleges or universities that offer arts programming.

A total of \$4,498,740 was awarded to 39 of Ohio's major arts institutions with budgets of more than \$1.5 million. The Council Board approved 229 Sustainability grants for a total of \$2,509,380 for organizations with budgets of less than \$1.5 million.

The Ohio Arts Council Board is composed of 15 voting members appointed by the governor and four non-voting members, two each from the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives. The Council Board is responsible for final approval of funding requests.

Please call the Box Office at **(937) 433-8957** for more information or to reserve tickets. To serve our patrons better, Town Hall Theatre now accepts VISA and Mastercard. For electronic press releases and more information, please visit our website at www.townhalltheatre.org and click on the Media Link.

Town Hall Theatre is a program of the Washington Township Recreation Center which offers recreational programs in sports, fitness, aquatics and the performing arts.

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Town Hall Theatre is a Washington Township Recreation Center Program and is funded by the residents of Washington Township & Centerville. Additional funding comes from the Ohio Arts Council and the Vandalia Cultural Arts Fund.

