



Contact: Cindy Schutt
Cindy Schutt PR
954-805-0361 (cell)
Cindy@SchuttPR.com

BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OPENS HUIZENGA PAVILION

\$1M ENCORE! Challenge Announced

With fireworks, spotlights and the pop of champagne bottles, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts celebrated the grand opening of the Huizenga Pavilion with an evening of festivities that electrified the entertainment complex and transformed the Wendt Terraces along Fort Lauderdale's New River. The event, underwritten by Linda and Douglas Von Allmen, attracted more than 500 guests and featured a private performance by singer/songwriter Sheryl Crow.

The opening of the Huizenga Pavilion marked a major milestone in the Broward Center's \$56 million capital renewal and expansion project, *ENCORE! Building Community through the Arts*. The evening's dramatic moment came when Kelley Shanley, President and CEO of the Center, announced that an anonymous donor had offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$1 million in gifts to the campaign. He noted that the gifts must come within the next six weeks to be eligible for the one-to-one match.

"Since the launch of the *ENCORE!* capital campaign, generous donors and public partners have supported our efforts to restore our theaters, create new spaces and increase our capacity," said Shanley. "This commitment is yet another example of how deeply our community values the tremendous impact of the Broward Center."

To date, a total of \$54 million has been raised through public and private giving leaving a balance of \$2 million to meet the \$56 million campaign goal. To take advantage of the *ENCORE!* challenge or for more information, please contact the Broward Performing Arts Foundation at 954-468-3284, e-mail foundation@browardcenter.org or visit www.browardcenter.org. Naming opportunities are still available.

Co-chairs of the *ENCORE!* capital campaign are Rose Miniaci, Charles L. Palmer, Bernard J. Peck, Ramón Rodríguez and Marti Huizenga, who played a pivotal role in the campaign both by being a lead contributor with Wayne Huizenga and by serving with energy, excitement and enthusiasm. CEO Shanley commended Marti Huizenga for her efforts just prior to Sheryl Crow's performance.

"This is truly your gift to the community," said Shanley. "As we have been taking in this beautiful facility in its great context on the river, it's so appropriate this new building is called the Huizenga Pavilion. Thank you, Marti."

The Huizenga Pavilion, a two-story structure with a glass facade overlooking the river, offers 3,500 square feet of event space in the Porter Riverview Ballroom on the second floor and, beginning in the fall, waterside dining at the New River Bistro on the first. Outside, the Wendt Terraces feature lovely views of the river, while the Von Allmen Plaza provides a grand entrance to all the offerings at the Broward Center.

Lisa Kitei, Executive Director of the Broward Performing Arts Foundation, thanked the underwriters and sponsors of the Grand Opening Celebration. "Their generous support allowed us to create an unforgettable evening to introduce these important additions to the Broward Center campus."

Event sponsors included: Presenting Sponsor Linda and Douglas Von Allmen whose gift to the campaign named the re-designed arrival plaza; Gold Underwriters - Marti and Wayne Huizenga; Silver Level Sponsors - Exults Internet Marketing, Fredrick Warten and Clifford J. Cideko, Hudson Family Foundation/Bimini Boatyard, Nova Southeastern University, Patty and Kurt Zimmerman/Plantation Ford, Robert Harrigan and Cindy Lane/UBS, and Stiles; Bronze Level Sponsors - Bank of America, Greenspoon Marder, Gunster Law Firm, Southern Wine & Spirits, and Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson PA. Other underwriters included Hoffman's Chocolate, Anne and Bill Scherer and Starmark.

The next milestone in the *ENCORE!* project will be the opening of the Rose Miniaci Arts Education Center this summer. This new facility will feature the JM Family Studio Theater, a 2,100 square-foot education hall, as well as classrooms, coaching space and integrated technologies for distance learning. It will enable the Broward Center for the Performing Arts to reach even more children in its arts-in-education program, one of the largest in the United States now serving more than 150,000 students annually.

In addition to the contributions from Marti and Wayne Huizenga, lead gifts for *ENCORE!* came from AutoNation; JM Family Enterprises, Inc.; Rose Miniaci and Family; Mary N. Porter Legacy Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward; Linda and Douglas Von Allmen; and Gary and Rosemarie Wendt. Other major donors include the Hudson Family Foundation; Micki and Bernie Peck; I. Lorraine Thomas; Clifford Jason Cideko and Fredrick Warten; John E. Abdo Family, Blanche and Bill Baum; Mary Jane Harlow Charitable Trust - Mary Short, President; Charles L. Palmer Family; and Publix Super

Markets Charities. Public support for the project has come from Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Downtown Development Authority, the School Board of Broward County and the Greater Fort Lauderdale CVB.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is one of America's premier performing arts venues. Presenting more than 700 performances each year to more than 600,000 patrons, the Broward Center showcases a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events, and offers one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

Photo IDs:

A – Lisa Kitej, Kelley Shanley, Marti and Wayne Huizenga

B – Douglas and Linda Von Allmen, Sheryl Crow

C – Adam Pass, Albert Miniaci, Rose Miniaci, Maria Miniaci, Beatriz Miniaci

D – Wini and Joe Amaturro

E – Mike Jackson, Marti Huizenga, Alice Jackson, Wayne Huizenga

F – Terry and Jamie Stiles, Sue and Harley Miller

G – Kelley and Sarah Shanley, Monica Squier and Jack Abdo

H – Yvette and Mike Hooley

I – Scott Huizenga, Wayne Huizenga, Marti Huizenga, Wayne Huizenga, Jr., Fonda Huizenga, Jeannie Hudson and Steve Hudson

J – Cindy Lane and Robert Harrigan

Photo Credit: Downtown Photo

THE BROWARD PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION, INC., REGISTRATION NUMBER SC-00882, MEETS ALL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY THE FLORIDA SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. 100% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS RECEIVED BY THE FOUNDATION.

###