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For Immediate Release

Fairfield Trails Council Honored for its Cultural Contribution

On Monday, November 7th, the Fairfield Cultural Alliance held its 2nd Annual Networking Gala and Award Ceremony at ICON Gallery. Cultural organization representatives, civic leaders, artists, and those interested in encouraging the arts and culture in our community came together for a festive evening to share experiences and lay groundwork for the future.

Entertainment was led by local singer-songwriters, Joey Del Re and Taylor Ross. Their lively, heartfelt original song brought enthusiastic applause. Taylor then explained a project with the Beauty Shop performance venue that will allow budding performers from all over to each spend a month in Fairfield. These six or more performers will enrich our community with their talent and give themselves an opportunity to artistically grow and create, sharing resources and ideas with others. She also reported on an artists colony in development on the former St. Mary school grounds by some of the Beauty Shop organizers.

Derek Anderson, Emergency Department Medical Director at Jefferson County Health Center, is also a father of small children and a theatre lover. He and his wife, in concert with a national organization, were inspired to establish a young children's theatre company in the Broadway (Louden) Building. Two Roads Educational Arts and Theater (TREAT) provides the Fairfield area with a dedicated professional children's theater that produces exciting, fun, appropriate, and affordable shows and workshops for a young audience.

The gathering also heard from three Cultural Trust Fund grant recipients. Freddy Fonseca of the Chamber Music Society, ArtWalk mural artists Karla Christensen and John Shirmer, and Terry Baker of the Convention and Visitors Bureau (representing the Fairfield Arts and Convention Center Artist Series) gave inspiring updates on the use of the funds they received this summer.

Denyce Rusch, president of the Fairfield Cultural Alliance, presented the Jefferson County Trails Council with the 2011 Cultural Contribution Award, recognizing their special efforts during 14 years of work with the City of Fairfield, citizens and officials of Jefferson County, and State of Iowa departments and officials, in completing the 15.9 mile Loop Trail around Fairfield. Accepting the award was Ron Blair, chairman of the all-volunteer Trails Council, and Jeffrey Fitz-Randolph, long-time Trails Council member. "The health and well-being of an enormous number of our citizens have been and will be positively affected by this trail for generations to come," stated Ms. Rusch.

The Fairfield Cultural Alliance is a group responsible for the Fairfield Cultural District designation from the State of Iowa, publishes a Fairfield Walking Tour booklet, and administers the Cultural Trust Fund. The FCA board enjoyed presenting the evening to the community, and encourages all those interested to join the FCA, meeting regularly throughout the year, and take part in projects that support and give recognition to the arts and culture of our valued community. For details, contact Denyce Rusch at 641-472-3866 or email

fairfieldculturalalliance@gmail.com.

[please see 5 photos below]



Figure 1: Ron Blair and Jeffrey Fitz-Randolph of the Fairfield Trails Council, recipients of the FCA 2011 Cultural Contribution Award



Figure 3: Derek Anderson of the new Children's Theatre, Jay Mattson of Hedquist Productions, Sondra Ward of the Sky Factory converse; Mark Shafer of the Carnegie Library and Museum in foreground.



Figure 2: Ron Blair of the Fairfield Trails Council, Donna Colby of Flying Leap Gallery, Doug Daller, local pianist and show director.



Figure 4: Michael Halley of the FCA board and the Fairfield City Council talks with Terry Baker of the Fairfield Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Figure 4: Taylor Ross, local musician and representative of the Beauty Shop, speaks with Shanaz Kreider of the FCA board.