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Wilson Center honors The Marcus Corporation with annual “Eddy” award

Brookfield, WI (May 24, 2010) The sixth annual Wilson Center Arts and Education Award, the “Eddy,” will be presented to **Greg S. Marcus**, President and CEO of **The Marcus Corporation** at *The Big Event goes Motown* fundraiser at the **Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts** on **Saturday, June 5, 2010**. The award is a work of art chosen at the Wilson Center’s annual Hidden River Art Festival. This year’s award is an acrylic painting by Wauwatosa painter, **David A. Sear**. **For more information on The Big Event, contact Lisa Dietz at (262) 373-5068 or ldietz@wilson-center.com.**

This year’s award recognizes The Marcus Corporation’s commitment and strong leadership in the arts community through the Artist-in-Residence program at the Pfister Hotel, the Marcus Prize for Architecture, and Gallerie M at the InterContinental Hotel. The year-long Artist-in-Residence program provides hotel guests and the public with access to the work of Milwaukee artists. The Marcus Prize for Architecture recognizes global talent by funding a grant through the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee’s School of Architecture and Urban Planning to bring internationally known architects to Milwaukee to lead graduate studio classes. Gallerie M at the InterContinental Hotel regularly exhibits the work of established and emerging artists from the region. The written nomination cited The Marcus Corporation’s continued commitment to the depth, breadth, and reach of the greater Milwaukee arts not only through the region, but internationally.

The “Eddy” award, endowed by Murph and John Burke, is presented annually by the Wilson Center’s Bridge Committee to an arts organization, corporation, or individual(s) whose commitment to regional collaboration has created a higher standard of excellence in arts and education. The Bridge Committee, made up of regional arts and community leaders, is committed to supporting the Wilson

Center's efforts to strengthen the impact of regional collaboration for the long-term viability of the arts in Southeastern Wisconsin. The 2010 committee members include: Paul Mathews (chair), Jodi Peck, Murph Burke, Kate Wilson, Julie Tolan, Dawn Helsing, Dan Keegan, Wade Hobgood, Cristy Garcia-Thomas, Christine Harris, and Jonathan Winkle (Wilson Center Executive Director).

Each year the presented "Eddy" award is created by a Wisconsin artist, building on the Wilson Center's commitment to advocate for quality visual arts in the state. The 2010 award is a painting by Wauwatosa artist David A. Sear: *Manitowoc II* (acrylic, colored pencil, and wax crayon on linen). Much of David Sear's artistic output over the past fifteen years has involved landscape, focusing on three primary areas: riverscapes, agricultural landscape, and local industrial scenes. While the imagery grows out of his desire to express a regional dialect, the heart of his work is the exploration of harmony between the natural and manmade worlds.

Past "Eddy" Award honorees included: **Milwaukee Youth Arts Center** in 2005, **Christine Harris** in 2006, **Mario Constantini** and **Danceworks**, for Mad Hot Ballroom Milwaukee in 2007, Marlene Doerr of **Sharp Literacy, Inc.** in 2008, and **Skylight Opera Theatre** in 2009.

The Wilson Center's annual gala *The Big Event goes Motown* with The Temptations takes place at 5:30 pm on Saturday, June 5. For more information or tickets to an evening of soul food-inspired dining bars, premium wine and cocktails, and silent and live auctions, contact Lisa Dietz at (262) 781-9470, x 5068.

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary cultural arts center that offers performances by regional and touring groups, arts education, and an art gallery with changing exhibits. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including Danceworks, Inc., First Stage Theater Academy, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Wisconsin fine artists are showcased at the Hidden River Art Festival in September and in the Ploch Art Gallery with five exhibitions each year. **The Wilson Center for the Arts is just minutes west of Milwaukee, nestled in Brookfield's Mitchell Park south of 198th & Capitol Drive. For information about the Wilson Center call (262)781-9470.**

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