

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urban Alchemy: Detroit-Inspired Artists in Transformed Door Auction June 9 *Gov. Granholm is Honorary Chairwoman of Fundraiser*

DETROIT, June 5, 2006 – Twenty-seven metro Detroit artists will be featured in a collaborative Art Exhibition and Transformed Door Auction June 9 – 24, 2006, to benefit the Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit in collaboration with 4731 Gallery and 555 Gallery/Studio. **Urban Alchemy: Artifacts Transformation** is the first major fundraiser for the non-profit organizations, located near each other in an emerging arts cluster at Grand River and Warren avenues in the Woodbridge Historic District.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is honorary chairwoman of **Urban Alchemy** and U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow are honorary co-chairmen. Masco Corp., Rock Financial, Phoenix Development Group and PVS Chemicals Inc. are financial sponsors of the event.

Urban Alchemy, to be exhibited at both galleries, will feature work from 27 city-inspired artists, most of whom work with found or salvaged objects. There will be a live auction on Friday, June 9, at which more than 15 doors transformed by artists will be auctioned at an exclusive event preview from 6 – 10 p.m., accompanied by local musicians and featuring fabulous food from Detroit restaurants. Tickets for the preview are \$75 and can be charged to a major credit card by calling (313) 515-0399.

The family friendly public opening from 3 – 10 p.m., Saturday, June 10, at both galleries is free and will feature music, food and hands-on art activities for children. The exhibition runs until June 24. 4731 Gallery is open 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. 555 Gallery/Studio is open 12 – 5 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays and Saturdays; and 6 – 9 p.m. Fridays. To purchase tickets or for more information visit www.urban-alchemy.org.

Urban Alchemy artists are: Suzanne Andersen, Madeleine Barkey, Allen Barnes, Jeanne Bieri, Tim Burke, Sandra Cardew, Mark Esse, Jerome Ferretti, Joe Fugate, Ric Geyer, Gabriel Hillebrand, Scott Hocking, Jack Johnson, Gail mally-mack, Eric Mesko, Catherine A. Peet, Teresa Petersen, Dan Pitera, Victor Pytko, Phaedra Robinson, Joan Risgin, Karl Schneider, Clinton Snider, Lisa Stoyanovich, Jack Summers, Vito Valdez and Will Wittig. Students from Bunche Elementary School and George Crockett Academy in Detroit also painted doors for a silent auction.

The missions of the three separate organizations – salvaging architecture, introducing urban youth to the arts, and enriching the diversity of cultural life in Detroit – work together to form a foundation for community rebuilding and change that is having a positive effect in the Woodbridge Historic District, a re-energized Detroit neighborhood. **Urban Alchemy: Artifacts Transformation** demonstrates what can happen when individuals and organizations discover and celebrate the wealth of resources in the city.

About the Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit

One year old, the Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit is dedicated to saving valuable building materials from landfills for rebuilding the community and is pioneering *deconstruction* in southeast Michigan, a systematic process of taking apart a structure to reclaim as much as 85 percent of formerly land-filled materials for reuse in new construction and historic preservation. ASWD's mission is to:

- Conserve historic, irreplaceable architectural resources by salvaging building materials from deconstruction and demolition sites in metro Detroit
- Increase affordable housing for lower- to moderate-income families by facilitating the re-use of high-quality materials
- Provide materials to renovate historic structures in Detroit
- Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills by removing reusable materials from the waste stream
- Provide job training, local jobs and volunteer opportunities

ASWD is located at 4885 15th Street in Detroit. For more information visit www.ASWDetroit.org or call founder Carolyn Mosher at (313) 515-0399.

About 4731 Gallery/Bridge to the Future

4731 Gallery is operated by Bridge to the Future, Inc., a non-profit organization that works to introduce urban youth to the arts through film, art, writing and visual media. Its strategic objectives are:

- Create an environment of positive outlets for urban youth to express their ideas

- Provide hands-on training, counseling and exposure to the entrepreneurial concept of becoming a creative artist using tomorrow's technology
- Teach urban youth to understand their role as leaders and creators in their community

4731 Gallery is located at 4731 Grand River Avenue near Warren Avenue. For more information visit www.4731.com or contact Brian Heath at (313) 850-4689 or www.ispgroupinc.com/bridge.

About 555 Gallery/Studio

555 Gallery/Studio is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to the enrichment and diversification of cultural life in metro Detroit by:

- Facilitating the development of emerging artists, offering exhibition space, leading and collaborating in the development of programs for the visual and performing arts
- Providing workspace for practicing artists
- Enhancing public awareness of the arts through collaborative projects with other non-profit arts and community organizations.

Co-directors Jacob M. Martinez and Carl W. Goines founded 555 Gallery/Studio in 2002 in Ann Arbor, Mich. 555 Gallery/Studio is located at 4884 Grand River Avenue at Warren Avenue. For more information visit www.555arts.org or call (313) 894-4202.

Note to editors: High-resolution color photos of the Transformed Doors are available. Contact Marsha Stopa at (248) 320-0044 or marshastopa@sbcglobal.net.

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