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33rd Annual *Start with Art* Event Celebrates Kickoff of 2019-2020 Indy Arts Season with ARTI Awards, Mayor Joe Hogsett, Honorary Co-Chairs Deborah Asante and Brian Payne, and Keynote Speaker Xavier Ramey of Justice Informed

INDIANAPOLIS— The Arts Council of Indianapolis celebrates the official start of the 2019-2020 Indy arts season with the 33rd annual *Start with Art* luncheon on Friday, August 30 at 11:30 am at the JW Marriott. Presented by Schahet Hotels, *Start with Art* is the largest annual business and arts luncheon in the country, bringing together 1,000 business, arts, and civic leaders to celebrate the impact of the arts in Indianapolis.

This year's keynote speaker is **Xavier Ramey**, CEO & Lead Strategist of Justice Informed, LLC., a social impact consulting firm based in Chicago, IL. Recognized as a leading voice on the topics of community and economic development, intersectional social justice, racial justice, public policy, and 21st century inclusion and equity practices, Ramey will share a powerful and inspiring message based on this year's *Start with Art* theme: "A Full Creative Life for All."

Recently, Ramey was featured as a keynote speaker at the 2019 Arts & Business Council of Chicago's Annual Meeting and the 2018 Rotary International Convention in Toronto, where he shared the program with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Former First Lady Laura Bush, World Health Organization director Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Caryl Stern, president and CEO of UNICEF USA among others.

The *Start with Art* luncheon will also include remarks by one of Indianapolis' biggest arts champions, **Mayor Joe Hogsett**, as well as Honorary Co-Chairs **Deborah Asante**, Founder and Artistic Director of the Asante Children's Theatre, and **Brian Payne**, President and CEO of the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

The program will feature inspirational performances by leading Indy artists including jazz saxophonist **Rob Dixon's Three Ring Circus**, poet/spoken word artist **Manon Voice**, and more. In addition, *Start with Art* attendees will preview the music celebration planned for bus stops all over the city as part of the Red Line launch, made possible through a partnership with the Arts Council, **IndyGo**, and **Square Cat Vinyl**.

The Arts Council will also present the **2019 ARTI Awards**, sponsored by **The National Bank of Indianapolis**, recognizing outstanding contributions to the Indianapolis arts and cultural community by leaders in business, patronage/volunteerism, arts education, impact, and equity. New this year is the “A Full Creative Life for All” award, recognizing individuals and/or organizations working to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the arts. This year’s awards are created by visual artist and Creative Renewal Arts Fellow, **Beatriz Vasquez**, who explores the process and culture within the traditional Mexican craft of Papel Picado, or perforated paper, often incorporating the indigenous craft of loom weaving into large scale paper and textile works.

Attendees are invited to stay after the luncheon to continue the celebration during the **Jiffy Lube After Party**. In partnership with the Arts Council, Jiffy Lube of Indiana’s [Every Part Matters mural program](#) is enlivening Indianapolis’ commercial corridors with new, commissioned murals on their stores and helping Indiana artists grow through their work.

START WITH ART 2019:

What: *Start with Art: annual business and arts luncheon celebrating the official start of the Indy arts season*

When: Friday, August 30; Registration and networking starts at 11 am, program begins promptly at 11:30 am. Stay after lunch for the Jiffy Lube After Party!

Where: JW Marriott Indianapolis, 10 S West St

Information: indyarts.org/start-with-art

#StartwithArt2019

All proceeds from *Start with Art* benefit the Arts Council’s nonprofit mission to foster meaningful engagement in the arts by nurturing a culture where artists and arts organizations thrive. *Start with Art* is presented by Schahet Hotels. Our Gold Sponsors are the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, Conrad Indianapolis, Markey’s Rental & Staging, The National Bank of Indianapolis, and Strada Education Network. View the [full list of Start with Art 2019 sponsors](#) at IndyArts.org.

About the Arts Council of Indianapolis

The Arts Council of Indianapolis is a nonprofit service organization dedicated to fostering meaningful and equitable engagement in the arts by nurturing a culture where artists and arts organizations thrive. The Arts Council administers the City of Indianapolis Annual Grants Program providing funding to arts and cultural organizations through a competitive public panel review; offers artist fellowship opportunities including the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship supported by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Robert D. Beckmann, Jr. Emerging Artist Fellowship, and the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award; provides programs, services, and technical assistance for artists and arts organizations; manages the Public Art for Neighborhoods initiative; supports arts education and arts integration in partnership with Indianapolis Public Schools; and owns/operates the Indianapolis Artsgarden, Gallery 924, and IndyArtsGuide.org.

The Arts Council of Indianapolis receives annual funding support from: Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Arthur Jordan Foundation, the Indiana Arts Commission, Lilly Endowment, Inc., The Indianapolis Foundation, A CICF Affiliate, and the City of Indianapolis.

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