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MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS SPECIAL “CHAMPION FOR THE ARTS AWARD” TO JOAN AND STEPHEN CARTER

DESTIN, FLORIDA (February 16, 2017) — The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) — a not-for-profit charitable arts organization founded in 1995 to be Northwest Florida’s champion of cultural arts and arts education for all — recently held its annual strategic planning session.

More than 25 board members, staff and stakeholders participated in MKAF’s annual strategic planning session to outline the 2017 strategic initiatives and long-term vision for the organization’s three pillars: Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Arts Education Outreach.

This annual exercise is a testament to MKAF’s investment in the community to be Northwest Florida’s champion of cultural arts and arts education for all.

This year’s annual strategic planning session began with a first-ever special award presentation. Board chairman, Matt Dahlman recognized Joan and Stephen Carter as “Champions for the Arts” for their generous and timeless contributions to Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation. The Carters own and operate several entrepreneurial businesses including, Carter Enterprise Group, which provides organizational consulting services to companies from start-ups to Fortune 500s.

Board Chairman, Matt Dahlman stated, “On behalf of Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation board and staff, I am pleased to present Joan and Stephen Carter with a special award. Joan and Stephen have been instrumental partners through their willingness to share collective nonprofit knowledge and expertise. They are true champions for the arts and we are grateful to have them in our community.”

For more information on MKAF events, arts education programs or membership and volunteer opportunities, visit online at www.mattiekellyartsfoundaton.org or call (850) 650-2226 to get involved.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo caption (L to R): MKAF CEO Marcia Hull, MKAF Board Chairman Matt Dahlman, MKAF Champion for the Arts award recipients Joan and Stephen Carter

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ABOUT MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION

Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF), a 501-c-3 not-for-profit charitable arts organization, founded on the cultural, educational and spiritual beliefs of the late Destin matriarch, Mattie Kelly. MKAF's mission is Northwest Florida's champion of cultural arts and arts education for all. Since it formed in 1995, its art programs have reached and inspired more than 300,000 children in over 61 schools, and United Way agencies including children with special needs and wounded warriors.

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