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**QUINCY NAMED AN ILLINOIS ARTS FRIENDLY COMMUNITY
Honor from Arts Alliance Illinois and the Illinois Municipal League**

Chicago and Springfield — Arts Alliance Illinois and the Illinois Municipal League (IML) selected 13 communities to receive the 2010 **Illinois Arts Friendly Community Awards**. The **City of Quincy** captured one of 11 **Honorable Mentions**. The Village of Hoffman Estates received the coveted Presidents' Choice Award, and the Village of Lemont received the Presidents' Choice Award for a small community.

The City of Quincy was chosen because its leaders recognize the importance of the arts in fostering a vibrant and creative community. That's why Quincy has been committed to using the arts as a way to expand the economy, strengthen education and insure cost-effective arts services for everyone.

The 10 other communities receiving Honorable Mentions are Arlington Heights, Country Club Hills, Deerfield, Geneva, Highland Park, Lombard, Park Forest, Round Lake Beach, Waterloo, and West Chicago.

"The arts make our communities more livable and vibrant places," **Ra Joy, Executive Director, Arts Alliance Illinois**. "The arts enhance quality of life, fuel creativity and innovation, sharpen the state's competitive edge, attract and retain talent, promote cross-cultural understanding, and connect Illinois nationally and globally. Congrats to Quincy for seeing the arts for what they are: central and indispensable to our quality of life."

The **Illinois Arts Friendly Community Awards** recognize municipalities that go above and beyond in their support of the arts and celebrate their leaders. Two Presidents' Awards are presented annually—one to a small community with a population less than 20,000 and one to a larger community. Previous recipients of the Presidents' Awards are Schaumburg, Rockford, Rock Island, Carbondale, Evanston, Arlington Heights, and Crystal Lake (large community), and Fairfield, Palos Park, Prophetstown, Marshall, Lincolnwood, Effingham, and Palos Hills (small community).

All nominations are judged on five criteria: Does the municipality demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the arts; Do the arts activities meet a clearly defined community need; Do the arts activities produce tangible results; Is broad and diverse support present in the community; Is the municipality innovative and creative in integrating the arts with municipal strategies

Arts Alliance Illinois, formerly the Illinois Arts Alliance, is the state's leading voice for the arts and arts education, uniquely combining advocacy, service, and information to advance a creative and culturally vibrant state. For more information on Arts Alliance Illinois, visit www.artsalliance.org.

The Illinois Municipal League is a statewide association representing over 1090 Illinois cities and villages. The League serves as the formal voice for Illinois municipalities in matters of common interest and on issues before the General Assembly, Congress, and state and federal agencies.

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