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**PRESS RELEASE:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The 2018 IMAGINE AWARDS: Inner-City Arts to Create Signature Studio Experience in Downtown Warehouse at Fundraising Event Celebrating Equal Access to Arts Education

Los Angeles, Calif. — On Saturday, October 13, 2018, **Inner-City Arts**— Los Angeles' leading provider of quality arts education for underserved children— will host its signature annual fundraising event the **Imagine Awards** at **City Market Social House** in the Arts District of Downtown Los Angeles. Founders Board members **Craig and Marion Benell** will be honored with the Philanthropic Leadership Award recognizing their enduring commitment to the mission and students of Inner-City Arts. The organization will also present the honor of Lifetime Achievement Award to Chief Program Officer **Beth Tishler**.

The eclectic evening will feature cocktails, dinner, and interactive live studios, where guests are invited to enjoy the event as Inner-City Arts students and experience firsthand the power of arts education by exploring their own creativity. The contemporary Downtown Los Angeles industrial warehouse will be converted into a mini Inner-City Arts-inspired campus and will host Inner-City Arts studio-replicas for guests to engage in immersive visual, media, and performing arts activities.

"This year's new, art-based Imagine Awards will be like nothing we've done before," said **Bob Smiland**, President and CEO of Inner-City Arts. "We want to immerse our supporters in the creative, imaginative world that our community experiences every day and that our dedicated advocates have made possible. Through their steadfast belief in the transformative power of the arts, honorees Craig and Marion Benell and Beth Tishler have laid the groundwork for the future of Inner-City Arts and we are thrilled to be honoring their legacies."

Inner-City Arts will recognize Founders Board members Craig and Marion Benell for their more than 20 year-long commitment to the organization, supporting major program initiatives that have enabled countless students and families to grow and thrive. Their support has been instrumental in the creation of new programming, including the DreamWorks Animation Academy, Artists in the Middle, the Work of Art program, as well as the launch of the Founders Board of Directors.

"We were introduced to Inner-City Arts as guests of the Imagine Awards—we were so touched by the students, their performances and their words that we left that evening asking how we could become part of such a special place," said Craig and Marion Benell. "Twenty years later, we are still in awe of Inner-City Arts and it's unwavering commitment to empower the children of Los Angeles. We can't wait to see what the next 20 years will bring!"

The 2018 Imagine Awards will also recognize Inner-City Arts' own Chief Program Officer Beth Tishler for her years of leadership and dedication. For nearly three decades, Beth Tishler has grown Inner-City Arts in potential and capacity. Having spent nine years as Inner-City Arts' Executive Director, Beth has been committed to deepening and broadening the impact of the organization, empowering thousands of students through a keen focus on community partnerships, early childhood development, and rigorous curriculum.

"What an amazing privilege it has been to be a part of the growth of Inner-City Arts for the past 26 years," said Beth Tishler. "To see the thousands of children and youth find their voice, and flourish through their own creativity confirms my commitment to learning and growth, and makes me hopeful. I can't wait to see what we do next."

All proceeds from the 2018 Imagine Awards support Inner-City Arts' dynamic services which utilize art and creativity to engage students in learning.

Tickets to the event start at \$500 and sponsorship packages are also available. For tickets and more information:
www.inner-cityarts.org/2018imagineawards

2018 Imagine Awards Honorary Committee:

Honorary Committee Co-Chairs

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Nicole Castrogiovanni

Jerry and Christi Anderson
Robert and Catherine Beyer
Vera R. Campbell
Matt and Gretchen DiNapoli
Richard and Melanie Lundquist
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ABOUT INNER-CITY ARTS

Founded in 1989, Inner-City Arts is a learning oasis in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles and widely regarded as one of the nation's most effective arts education providers. Under the guidance of professional teaching artists, Inner-City Arts' students are immersed in a safe and supportive environment where they may engage in a variety of visual and performing art forms in a studio setting. Services include core classes during the instructional day for grade K-8 students, afterschool and weekend workshops for teens and creativity-based professional development training for educators.

Children who attend Inner-City Arts develop skills that are highly valued in the 21st century workforce such as collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Research further demonstrates the profound impact of our programs on student achievement as indicated by dramatic increases in statewide standardized test scores: 25% in math, 18% in reading, 8% in English proficiency. WWW.INNER-CITYARTS.ORG