



THE
SHELDON
Arts Without Borders

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELDON GALA CELEBRATES OPENING OF KONNEKER ROOM
WITH BROADWAY STAR HEATHER HEADLEY**

- Annual Event Honors the Legacy of St. Louis Philanthropists Wilfred and Ann Lee Konneker -

Event: The Sheldon's 2022 Gala: An Evening with Heather Headley

When: Saturday, April 2, 2022

Where: The Sheldon

Gala Patron Tickets: Gala tickets start at \$500, and include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, dinner, valet parking, preferred concert seating, a tax deduction and more. Visit TheSheldon.org/events/2022Gala/ or call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900.

Concert-only: Concert-only tickets go on sale February 11 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$80 orchestra/\$75 front balcony /\$70 rear balcony and are available through MetroTix at 314-534-1111 or online at TheSheldon.org.

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon is pleased to announce the 2022 Sheldon Gala, featuring Tony and Grammy Award-winning artist Heather Headley, Saturday, April 2, 2022. The evening will celebrate the re-opening of The Sheldon's premiere event space, renamed The Konneker Room (formerly the Louis Spiering Room), in tribute to longtime Sheldon supporters, the late Wilfred and Ann Lee Konneker. Their \$3 million bequest, announced earlier this year, is the largest ever individual gift to The Sheldon.

Gala patrons will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in The Sheldon Ballroom, followed by dinner in the newly remodeled Konneker Room, and finally a fabulous concert in the Sheldon Concert Hall with multi-talented singer, songwriter, record producer and actress Heather Headley.

MORE...

The success of the annual gala is crucial to the operation and preservation of The Sheldon. In a typical year, The Sheldon hosts over 350 music, visual art and community events, and welcomes tens of thousands of students for music and art education programs. These programs are made possible in large part by generous individual, corporate and foundation support of the annual gala.

From its beginnings as the Ethical Society of St. Louis, to its history as the birthplace of the St. Louis League of Women Voters and a headquarters for civil rights organizers in the 1960s, The Sheldon has a history of breaking down the barriers that divide us as a community. Today, as one of the premiere arts and culture organizations in the country, The Sheldon continues to welcome the St. Louis community to enjoy “Arts Without Borders” - making the role of “arts lover” accessible to all.

The Sheldon’s 2022 Gala is chaired by Lori and Ted Samuels, with honorary chair, Barbara Konneker Webster. Proceeds benefit the concerts, gallery exhibitions and educational programs of The Sheldon. Learn more about how The Sheldon impacts the St. Louis community:

Arts Without Borders: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3QKioskTkq>

The Sheldon’s City of Music All-Star Chorus: <https://youtu.be/LaRwQPLoYfY>

About the Artist:

Heather Headley’s Broadway career began in 1997 when she originated the role of Nala in Disney’s *The Lion King*, followed by her Tony-Award winning title role in Elton John and Tim Rice’s *Aida*. She has gone on to find success in the R&B and Gospel recording industry, with multiple Grammy nominations to her credit, including an Award in 2009 for her album *Audience of One*. Headley made her triumphant return to Broadway in 2016, taking on the role of Shug Avery in *The Color Purple*, and can currently be seen as a series regular in Netflix’s *Sweet Magnolias*, as well as in a recurring role in CBS’ *Chicago Med*.

[Learn more about The Konneker’s \\$3 million donation to The Sheldon.](#)

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Underwritten by the Steward Family Foundation

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