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SHELDON ART GALLERIES TO OPEN “THE CITY AT 250” PRESENTED BY PNC ARTS ALIVE

ST. LOUIS, MO - Thanks to a generous grant from PNC Arts Alive, The Sheldon is pleased to announce *The City at 250: A Celebration of St. Louis in Photographs*, opening June 6 with a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception from 5-7 p.m. The galleries will remain open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The exhibit runs through August 23.

The exhibition is a culmination of a citywide photo contest, co-presented by *The St. Louis Beacon* (now a part of St. Louis Public Radio) launched in the Fall of 2013, which garnered over 500 entries. Jurors chose photographs that speak to the diversity and dynamism of today's St. Louis, with creativity and unique views of the city and its inhabitants. One hundred images, including prize winners in three different categories, in professional, amateur and youth levels - Places and Architecture, Neighborhoods and Events, and People - were selected for the exhibit and companion book (8.5 x 11 hardbound, \$24.95, published by the Sheldon Art Galleries), and 150 additional entries were chosen for a slide show that will be included in the exhibit as well.

“Arts Alive is at its heart a driver of economic development,” said Michael Scully, PNC regional president for St. Louis. “By encouraging the tremendous efforts to foster a vibrant and active arts scene in St. Louis, we are working to attract young talent, provide access to new audiences -- including those traditionally underserved by the arts -- and fuel the economic engine of the region.”

The City at 250 is a companion to the Sheldon Art Galleries' ongoing exhibit and already published book, *Imagining the Founding of St. Louis*, and both celebrate St. Louis' 250th birthday. “We are delighted that PNC has supported this project, which has brought the community together to celebrate what St. Louis is today,” said Sheldon Art Galleries director, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales.

PNC Arts Alive is a multi-year, \$2 million investment from The PNC Foundation that supports visual and performing arts groups with the goal of increasing arts access and engagement in new and innovative ways. A very prestigious grant award, only 10 arts organizations in the Greater St. Louis area were selected for bold thinking around increasing arts access and engagement and The Sheldon was one. For more information on PNC Arts Alive and the grant recipients visit www.pncartsalive.com.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, jazz art and history, and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

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