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### **SHELDON RECEIVES \$100,000 REGIONAL ARTS COMMISSION INNOVATION GRANT**

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon has been awarded a \$100,000 Innovation Grant from the Regional Arts Commission (RAC). The Sheldon was one of five beneficiaries of this grant program, now in its third year, created by RAC in response to changing economic, social and technological environments facing the arts today.

The Sheldon received the grant in support of a “Vertical Garden” designed by architect Ben Gilmartin and his team, who created the recently opened Public Media Commons in Grand Center, south of The Sheldon. The Vertical Garden is part of a long-range plan that would add a pedestrian walk way to the west of the Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries.

The Vertical Garden will be three-stories high and 240 feet long, featuring a mix of Missouri vines and plants growing up an artistically designed cabling and rod system. Small LED lights will be embedded along the garden to create a magical atmosphere at night. The Sheldon has engaged the participation of Missouri plant experts at the Missouri Botanical Garden and is developing a year-round green wall model that can be replicated throughout St. Louis and the Midwest.

The Sheldon opened in 1912 as the home of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, and musicians and music lovers have enjoyed its perfect acoustics for over 100 years. Today The Sheldon is the site of over 350 events each year, including great jazz, folk, classical, bluegrass, world music and more in the Sheldon Concert Hall, a wide range of educational programs for schools serving over 20,000 students each year and a variety of world-class exhibitions in the Sheldon Art Galleries, featuring photography, architecture, St. Louis artists and collections, music, children’s art, sculpture and emerging artists. The Sheldon also collaborates with a host of community organizations, and hosts many fundraising events for other non-profit organizations in the St. Louis region.

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