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### Wichita Center for the Arts Presents Pastel National Exhibition

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#### Volunteers of the Year to Be Honored at Opening Reception

WICHITA, Kan. —Wichita Center for the Arts announces its Pastel National Exhibition, which will be on display April 1 - May 8.

Acclaimed pastelist Liz Haywood-Sullivan served as juror for the exhibition, selecting 74 pieces and awarding the following honors:

**First Place Mary Koch Memorial Award, \$1,000:** *Ghost* by Marla Rush Parnell of Springfield, Missouri  
**Second Place, \$750:** *Sunrise Near Alma* by Cris Chapin of Lawrence, Kansas  
**Third Place, \$500:** *Autumn Reflection* by Jeff Skelly of Sunland, California  
**Honorable Mention, \$100 :** *Honor, #2* by Ruthie Ingram of Kansas City, Kansas; *Windy Day* by Pat Jessee of Kansas City, Missouri; and *Easy Riders* by Gary Ward of Canyon, Texas

An opening reception is planned for 5 - 7 p.m. Friday, April 1, featuring a cash bar and music by Hinkle, Whatley & Jasso. Wichita Center for the Arts also will honor its volunteer of the year, Polly Gentry, and volunteer group of the year, Celebrity Cruises.

Gentry is both a student at Wichita Center for the Arts and also a member of the Board of Trustees. She has planned and coordinated several major fundraisers for the Center. *Versus: A Live Art Battle* was the first event of its kind in Wichita and brought in more than \$70,000. Gentry also led the charge for the 2015 and 2016 Rodeo Drive events, which netted more than \$40,000 each.

Angel Gomez and his crew at Celebrity Cruises held their GIVE Day -- Get Involved, Volunteer Everywhere -- at the Center in October, marking the first time a corporation has volunteered at the Center on such a large scale. Celebrity Cruises volunteers cleaned and organized studios, helped move and organize the theater, pressure-washed the building, cut down brush and helped plant flowers.

The Pastel National Exhibition is generously underwritten by the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation.

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#### About Wichita Center for the Arts

The Center's mission is to be a vibrant arts hub in Wichita and the region by providing opportunities to appreciate, participate in and create art in an atmosphere of lifelong learning. It was originally founded in 1920 as the Wichita Art Association and is the area's oldest visual arts organization. The gallery is open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Visit [wcfta.com](http://wcfta.com) or call 316.634.2787.