



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN EXPRESS CHARITABLE FUND GRANT WILL SUPPORT DIVERSITY LEADER SEARCH FOR NATIVE AMERICANS, LGBT CANDIDATES

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Nov. 30, 2011): A \$20,000 grant from the American Express Charitable Fund will underwrite costs for members of the Valley's Native American and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender) communities to participate in the Diversity Leadership Program organized by the Arts & Business Council of Greater Phoenix.

The Diversity Leadership Program is part of the Arts & Business Council's Business on Board training program, which begins in January to provide governance training to a cohort of 45 leaders selected through an application process. In addition to Native American and LGBT participants, the program also will include members of the Valley's Latino, Asian, African American and Caucasian communities.

"As a company, American Express has consistently been a leader in identifying and developing strong leaders from the Valley's emerging and established diverse communities," said Arts & Business Council Executive Director Debbie Paine. "This grant from the American Express Charitable Fund allows us to continue our efforts to train and place leaders on boards of nonprofit arts and social service agencies."

Applications will be accepted through Thursday, Dec. 16. Applications are available by calling the Arts & Business Council of Greater Phoenix or by visiting the website, www.artsbusinessphoenix.org. A non-refundable \$100 registration fee is required

The six-month training will cover a range of important objectives and topics that include Context for Effective Governance, Diversity, Promoting the Brand, Fundraising and Financial Responsibilities.

For more information, call (602) 234-4711 or visit www.artsbusinessphoenix.org.

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About the Arts and Business Council of Greater Phoenix: The Arts & Business Council of Greater Phoenix (A&BC) links the vitality and expertise of the business community to non-profit arts and cultural organizations. Originally chartered as Business Volunteers for the Arts (BVA), today, the organization is a strategic partner for capacity building and offers a range of services including governance training, educational opportunities for artists, leadership skills and board training for executives and key managers and business to business opportunities. For more information, visit www.artsbusinessphoenix.org

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