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EMBARGOED UNTIL OCTOBER 7, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M. CT

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**Unprecedented \$10 million public-private partnership proposed to support
the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts**

**\$7.5 million lead gift from Kinder Foundation offered to support
integration of arts and education facilities**

HOUSTON – October 7, 2016 – In an unprecedented partnership, a private donor and non-profit organization are collaborating for the benefit of a Houston Independent School District (HISD) public school. Today, HSPVA Friends, the non-profit dedicated to raising funds for the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, launches a \$10 million capital campaign to ensure that the school's long-awaited downtown campus opens with top-caliber arts learning facilities. The Kinder Foundation, a supporter of HSPVA Friends since 2008, is stepping up with a lead gift of \$7.5 million, pending approval by the HISD Board of Trustees.

HSPVA's new campus, designed by the Houston office of Gensler, optimizes the integration of arts and academics. The project received substantial funding of \$80.2 million from the 2012 HISD bond election and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in December 2014. Construction began in February 2016 with the understanding that additional funding would be required to bring this 21st-century facility to fruition. Throughout the planning process, HSPVA Friends stood ready to mobilize a capital campaign to ensure a margin of excellence from day one in the new facility by bridging the gap between the bond funding and the school's specific needs.

This summer, HISD informed HSPVA Friends of the additional funds needed for buildouts, enhancements, equipment, and furnishings and the campaign launched its quiet phase.

In recognition of the Kinder Foundation's extraordinary lead donation, and pending HISD Board of Trustees approval on October 13, upon opening the new downtown school will be named the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. A policy allowing this type of naming opportunity was adopted by HISD in November 2015.

"HSPVA is a world-class school because of support from HSPVA Friends and the entire community," said HISD Trustee Michael Lunceford, who is bringing the proposed gift forward for the Board of Education to consider. "All HISD schools need this kind of backing,

and I want to thank HSPVA Friends and the Kinder Foundation for setting the example and, hopefully, inspiring future donors to invest in other Houston schools.”

New HISD Superintendent Richard Carranza said the city’s history of strong philanthropic support for public education helped draw him to Houston.

“On behalf of the children of HISD, I want to thank the Kinder Foundation for this generous donation,” said HISD Superintendent Richard Carranza. “With this donation, the Kinder Foundation is sending a strong message to our children that Houston is a city that recognizes the critical role that the arts play in every student’s education. As a district, we are committed to ensuring that the pipeline of artistic talent pouring into HSPVA reaches every segment of our strong, diverse city. This donation provides the momentum we need to make that happen.”

Bob Boblitt, Board Chair for HSPVA Friends, said, "Friends is incredibly grateful for the Kinder Foundation's interest and investment in HSPVA, which would allow for the immediate funding of critical campus enhancements and provide remarkable opportunities for the students and faculty for many years to come. This new campus is a symbol of Houston's values, representing the highest level of public education, the importance of the arts, and the enrichment of downtown. Other cities across the country have already invested in their arts education facilities. Now, in addition to HSPVA's 45-year legacy of success, Houston's students will have the tools they need to achieve their goals."

Long-time supporters of HSPVA Friends, Rich and Nancy Kinder saw an opportunity to make a meaningful impact at this school that has produced some of Houston’s most talented writers, musicians, actors, dancers, and visual artists. According to Kinder Foundation Chairman Rich Kinder, “We are pleased to have this opportunity to continue to support HSPVA, a school that has a well-deserved reputation for excellence.”

The 168,000 square foot, five-wing campus includes academic classrooms and learning centers; studios for creative writing, dance, music, visual arts, and recording; a costume and scene shop; an 800-seat main theater; a 200-seat mini theater; a 150-seat black box theater; a 150-seat recital hall; indoor and outdoor dining areas; and two levels of underground parking. The campus, which will be complete in the third quarter of 2018, is ideal for the 750+ students, all of whom must audition for placement, and come from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, united in art.

With this potential lead gift by the Kinder Foundation, and the more than \$670,000 pledged by the Board of Directors, HSPVA Friends launches its capital campaign – ***Build the Extraordinary. Inspire Dreams.*** – to raise the remaining \$1.83 million of the \$10 million goal. The campaign will ensure that the new campus will include the features students need to develop skills in all of the artistic areas offered by the school. It will also provide for ongoing maintenance of the equipment provided as well as the programming required to keep the facility’s artistic spaces operational for decades to come. To reach its goal, HSPVA Friends will require the support of the community at every level. Visit www.hspvafriends.org/downtown.

“The City of Houston has embraced the students and mission of The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts since its inception in 1971,” said principal, Dr. R. Scott Allen. “With the downtown facility in the Houston Theater District, HISD is giving us an amazing, 21st-century facility designed to fit the needs of our arts and academic programs. This

generous gift by the Kinders would allow us to take the quality of those programs to a higher level. I am excited for the opportunity afforded future young artists because of this donation and the HSPVA Friends capital campaign that will ensure this school has the resources to meet the high-caliber programming that has long been a part of the tradition of excellence at HSPVA.”

Download high resolution images [here](#).

About HSPVA

Houston Independent School District’s High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) is a unique magnet school dedicated to giving diverse and talented students the opportunity to develop their academic and creative potential. HSPVA was founded in 1971 and was the first public high school to integrate academics with concentrated training in both performing and visual arts. In this pioneering program, gifted young artists prepare for universities, conservatories, and the professional arts world. The mission of HSPVA is to educate and inspire artistically gifted and talented students in specific disciplines—Creative Writing, Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts—while maintaining an equal focus on academic, social, and personal growth in a diverse environment.

HSPVA has been a model for arts programming in other school districts across the nation and is renowned for both its quality arts and academics. HSPVA enrolls more than 750 students, all of whom audition for placement. The school also is one of the top three schools in HISD for academic achievement year after year. HSPVA students come from every racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic group, united by their art. The 154 members of HSPVA’s class of 2016 were offered more than \$26 million in college scholarships, ranking HSPVA first in HISD for the value of scholarship offers per student.

Notable HSPVA alumni include superstar **Beyoncé**; actor, director, and producer **Chandra Wilson**; renowned jazz pianist **Jason Moran**; GRAMMY-winners **Robert Glasper** and **Bryan-Michael Cox**; founder of WordPress **Matt Mullenweg**; actor **Mireille Enos**; soprano **Camille Zamora**; and photographer **Mark Seliger**.

About HSPVA Friends

HSPVA Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1979 to support HSPVA and its students. It has raised millions of dollars to augment the school’s budget, investing in programs, equipment, scholarships, master classes, and more to meet the school’s needs and to ensure that talented students can reach their potential. It is governed by a 10-member Board of Directors and supported by an Advisory Board composed of approximately 50 civic leaders who represent Houston’s leading arts organizations, universities, and businesses. The *Build the Extraordinary. Inspire Dreams.* capital campaign is led by the HSPVA Friends Board of Directors. Visit hspvafriends.org.