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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virginians for the Arts Announces 2011 Dominion ArtStars Winners

Virginians for the Arts (VFTA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Dominion ArtStars Awards. (*See chart below.*) The awards recognize two arts organizations in each of five regions of the Commonwealth (Central Virginia, Hampton Roads/Eastern Shore, Northern Virginia, Southwest, and Shenandoah Valley/Piedmont) that best demonstrate the ability to enhance communities, lift our spirits and build a better quality of life. The awards are made possible by a \$30,000 contribution from The Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Dominion Resources.

"We are honored to join with VFTA in recognizing the Commonwealth's best," said Virginia M. Board, president of The Dominion Foundation. "We value and appreciate the efforts of each organization to enrich our lives and strengthen our communities."

The Shining Star Award is bestowed upon an arts organization in each region that has an extraordinary impact on the community, successfully develops community partnerships, as well as business, legislative, and local community support; contributes to K-12 education; and that has stood the "test of time." The **Rising Star Award** is presented to an arts organization in each region that meets all of the criteria for the Shining Star Award, but that is not as well established.

Through the generosity of Dominion, cash prizes of \$5,000 for each Shining Star and \$1,000 for each Rising Star will be distributed to the winners at upcoming celebration events being held in each region. (*See chart below for details of each celebration event.*) Winners also will be recognized at the January 2012 ArtWorks conference in Richmond.

Expecting about 60 nominations for the awards contest, VFTA received 99, which were carefully evaluated over the summer by a top-notch panel of judges from around the Commonwealth. "We couldn't be more pleased with this inaugural awards program," said Suny Monk, VFTA president. "The competition was fierce as

each organization brings a unique and worthwhile arts program to these communities, and in the end, the judges had to make some very difficult choices.”

Dominion, a longtime supporter of the arts in Virginia, has agreed to fund the ArtStars initiative for one additional cycle over the next two to three years.

The 2011 Dominion ArtStars winners are:

REGION	SHINING STAR WINNER (\$5,000 cash award)	RISING STAR WINNER (\$1,000 cash award)	CELEBRATION EVENT INFORMATION (media welcome)
Hampton Roads/ Eastern Shore	<p>Chrysler Museum of Art (Norfolk)</p> <p>Contact: William J. Hennessey Director (757) 664-6200 whennessey@chrysler.org www.chrysler.org</p>	<p>Crispus Attucks Cultural Center (Norfolk)</p> <p>Contact: Gail Easley Managing Director (757) 622-4763 attuckstheatre@verizon.net www.attuckstheatre.org</p>	<p>Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. American Theatre Hampton</p>
Central Virginia	<p>Richmond Symphony (Richmond)</p> <p>Contact: E. Frazier Millner Director of Advancement & Patron Communications (804) 788-9717, ext. 120 fmillner@richmondsymphony.com www.richmondsymphony.com</p>	<p>Sycamore Rouge (Petersburg)</p> <p>Contact: Andrea Siebentritt Director of Marketing & Development (804) 957-5707 development@sycamorerouge.org www.sycamorerouge.org</p>	<p>Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. James Center Richmond</p>
Northern Virginia	<p>Signature Theatre (Arlington)</p> <p>Contact: Erin Harms Deputy Director of Development (571) 527 1860 harmse@signature-theatre.org www.signature-theatre.org</p>	<p>The Barns of Rose Hill (Berryville)</p> <p>Contact: Susi Bailey Executive Director (540) 955-2004 susi@rstarmail.com www.barnsofrosehill.org</p>	<p>Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Schlesinger Center Alexandria</p>
Shenandoah Valley/Piedmont	<p>American Shakespeare Center (Staunton)</p> <p>Contact: Cathy Bagwell Marsh Marketing Director (540) 885-5588 cathy@americanshakespearecenter.com www.americanshakespearecenter.com</p>	<p>Academy of Fine Arts (Lynchburg)</p> <p>Contact: G. Ronald Kastner Development Director (434) 528-3256, ext. 116 rkastner@academyfinearts.com www.academyfinearts.com</p>	<p>Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. American Shakespeare Center Staunton</p>

REGION	SHINING STAR WINNER (\$5,000 cash award)	RISING STAR WINNER (\$1,000 cash award)	CELEBRATION EVENT INFORMATION (media welcome)
Southwest Virginia	Piedmont Arts Association (Collinsville) Contact: Kathy H. Rogers Executive Director (276) 638-3963 kathyrogers@piedmontarts.org www.piedmontarts.org	Chestnut Creek School of the Arts (Galax) Contact: Chris Shackelford Executive Director (276) 236-3500 chris@chestnutcreekarts.org www.chestnutcreekarts.org	Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Wilson Museum at Hollins College Roanoke

Dominion (NYSE:D) is one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy, with a portfolio of approximately 28,200 megawatts of generation. Dominion operates the nation's largest natural gas storage system and serves retail energy customers in 15 states. For more information about Dominion, visit the company's website at www.dom.com.

Virginians for the Arts, a non-profit founded in 1992, works to advance the arts in Virginia by increasing public awareness of the important contributions the arts make to the life, culture, and economy of the state. The organization works to increase the public value of and appreciation for the arts; provides networking and professional education; and advocates for public funding for the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which makes operating grants essential to the state's arts organizations. For additional profiles of Virginia's arts organizations, please visit the VFTA website at www.VaForArts.org.

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