

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2006

Contacts: **Lauren Churchin** (Arc)
(512) 476-7044 ext.204
David Wyatt (AMOA)
(512) 495-9224 ext.286

Collaborative Works of Art

AMOA-Laguna Gloria, The Arc of the Capital Area, and Jerry's Artarama

It has been said that art is the most effective and powerful form of communication, and that in the absence of language, we rely on images to speak to one another.

Beginning on Saturday, August 12th, The Arc of the Capital Area (The Arc) will kick off a series of free art classes hosted by the Austin Museum of Art (AMOA)-Laguna Gloria. Eight artists with developmental disabilities will be paired with volunteer artists to create works of art that will be showcased at The Arc's signature fundraiser, "Building Bridges" on October 26th. The pieces will include paintings, drawings, photographs, and a small quilt, with class supplies being donated by Jerry's Artarama.

The Arc's Director of Marketing and Development, Randi Knight, will be leading all five of the classes using her art therapy background and experience with those with disabilities, to encourage the teams and offer advice on the pieces. The ultimate goal of the collaboration is to make art accessible to every member of the Austin community regardless of age, gender, race, or ability.

Who: The Arc of the Capital Area and AMOA-Laguna Gloria

What: Collaborative Works of Art

When: August 12, 19, 26, September 2nd and 9th

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: AMOA-Laguna Gloria
3809 West 35th Street- Studio #3

Interviews, photo and filming opportunities welcome and available upon request.

The Arc of the Capital Area is a non-profit organization that is committed to promoting independence and choice by providing individualized services to adults and children with developmental disabilities. The Arc envisions a future in which people with developmental disabilities have the same opportunities as others to pursue full and productive lives.

AMOA is dedicated to developing and educating a broad audience for the visual arts in Austin focusing primarily on 20th- century and contemporary art. As the museum's original home, AMOA-Laguna Gloria is a monument to AMOA's long-standing commitment to the community- offering a unique experience of history, art, and nature.

###