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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALL FOR ARTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SILENT AUCTION BENEFIT ART EXHIBIT

Ellicott City, MD – Artists are sought to participate in the Howard County Arts Council Annual Silent Auction Art Benefit Exhibit as part of the Arts Council's annual fundraising gala, *Celebration of the Arts in Howard County*. All 2-D, 3-D, and fine craft artists, 18 years or older, residing, working or studying in Howard County, HCAC members, and artists that have exhibited in Howard County in the last year are invited to submit. **Deadline for submissions is February 5, 2010 by 5PM.**

Visual artists working in all styles and media are invited to apply, including painters, sculptors, ceramicists, fiber artists, jewelers, and photographers. Artists will be selected by a jury panel who may also invite artists who are eligible to participate. This showcase of artists in Howard County has proven to be a great benefit to both established and emerging talent in the community and is also a successful fundraiser to support art programs, exhibitions, and organizations in Howard County.

The exhibition will be held during the *Celebration of the Arts* on April 24, 2010 from 6-10 PM at the Wilde Lake High School Mini Theater, Columbia, Maryland. The final bid for each artwork sold will be divided equally between the artist and the Arts Council. Last year's Silent Auction sales exceeded \$11,000 and 85 pieces sold.

A prospectus with additional information is available on the *Celebration* page of the Arts Council's website www.hocoarts.org or can be mailed or emailed by calling 410-313-ARTS (2787).

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The Howard County Center for the Arts is operated by the Howard County Arts Council, a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve the citizens of Howard County by fostering the arts, artists and arts organizations. The Howard County Arts Council and the Howard County Center for the Arts receive major grants from Howard County and the Maryland State Arts Council and sustaining annual support from corporate, foundation and individual sponsors. Howard County Arts Council offices are located at the Howard County Center for the Arts, 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The Howard County Center for the Arts is a handicapped accessible facility encouraging the full participation of individuals with disabilities.

For information, call 410-313-ARTS (2787), fax 410-313-2790, or email info@hocoarts.org.