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For Immediate Release

GSU Receives Illinois Arts Council Grants

University Park, IL, October 13, 2008 – Governors State University's Center for Performing Arts and Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park recently received grants from the Illinois Arts Council. Illinois State Representative Lisa Dugan (D – 79th District) visited the university in early October to present the grant checks to the university. She was joined by Illinois Arts Council representative Carla Kunzeman.

"I am very proud of our local organizations that have been recognized by the Illinois Arts Council," Representative Dugan said. "We should all take pride in the fact that cities and towns in this region and throughout Illinois have vibrant cultural organizations that provide enriching and educational experiences for our residents."

GSU's sculpture park and performing arts center are cornerstones in the culture of the Chicago southland. Established 30 years ago, the internationally recognized Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park has grown into a major collection of 26 works. The Park received a \$2,620 grant.

The Center for Performing Arts has been bringing top acts to the region for more than 10 years. The Center also offers an extensive Arts in Education program for area schools. The Center received a grant in the amount of \$9,020.

"The Illinois Arts Council believes strongly in active engagement with all Illinoisans, ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to participate in, and experience, the arts and culture," said Shirley R. Madigan, Illinois Arts Council Chairman. "The arts are the basis for a quality education, providing students with the opportunity to express their creativity and develop their imaginations. Arts and culture make for a better quality of life as individuals and in our communities, both as we grow up and as we grow old. And the economic impact of the arts is substantial, driving the kinds of development that people want and sustaining itself many times over."

The grants are part of a statewide funding program by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, which has awarded 861 grants totaling over \$6,912,470 in its first round of Fiscal Year 2009 grants. The Council assists artists, arts organizations, and other community organizations that provide arts programming by providing financial and technical assistance.

Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and The Center for Performing Arts are located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois.