



THE KING ARTS COMPLEX
Where Dreams Come Alive...



SAVE THE DATE

LEGENDS & LEGACIES

Honoring Ann and Ron Pizzuti

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021 | 7 PM
THE LINCOLN THEATRE
KINGARTSCOMPLEX.COM

Media Kit

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THE KING ARTS COMPLEX



THE KING ARTS COMPLEX

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2021

The King Arts Complex 14th Annual Legends & Legacies Honoring Ann and Ron Pizzuti Press Release

We are excited and honored to present The King Arts Complex's 14th Annual Legends & Legacies Award Ceremony and Reception this year. The event will take place on Thursday, October 7 at the Lincoln Theater, from 7:00 – 8:15 pm, with a VIP reception immediately following.

Legends and Legacies pays tribute to local, regional, and national individuals who have shown a commitment to freedom through social justice, human rights, cultural democracy, artistic excellence, and service. Their actions have influenced and impacted their community, city, state, and beyond through philanthropy, commitment to community, policy development, service, leadership, preservation, creativity, and vision.

The 14th Annual Legends & Legacies will honor Ann and Ron Pizzuti who are among the nation's foremost collectors of black art with works by over 111 African, Afro-Cuban and African American artists. They own works by African Americans: Kara Walker, Kehinde Wiley, Mark Bradford, Titus Kaphar, Hank Willis Thomas, Wangechi Mutu, Lyle Ashton Harris, Kerry James Marshall, Leonardo Drew, Carrie Mae Weems, Derrick Adams and Julie Mehretu, among others.

Ann and Ron have spent the last 40 years amassing a collection of over 2,000 pieces of contemporary art. In September 2015, they decided to share their collection with the City of Columbus by creating The Pizzuti Collection, now a part of the Columbus Museum of Art. By doing so, Ann and Ron aimed "to foster cultural understanding and educational exchange by championing a diversity of voices from around the globe."

The King Arts Complex is in the heart of the city's King Lincoln District and its mission is connecting community through the arts. The youth education programs offered at the Complex are award-winning, and its summer concert series is a community favorite.

Proceeds from the event will support the many arts education programs offered by The King Arts Complex.

Ann and Ron Pizzuti

The Pizzutis are ranked by ART News among “The World’s Top 200 Collectors” and have amassed a truly legendary contemporary art collection. In donating The Pizzuti Collection to the Columbus Museum of Art, they have created a legacy that will endure for decades to come.

As a young man born and raised in Kent, Ohio, Ron Pizzuti had the opportunity to travel to Paris, France for his job at The Limited. There, he walked into an art gallery in Montmartre and caught a glimpse of a Frank Stella painting. “It was my first exposure to contemporary art,” he said.

Upon returning to New York, Ron went to the New York Public Library to study Stella. Forty years later, Ron and Frank Stella enjoy a friendship. A larger version of the painting Ron first saw in Paris hangs over the fireplace in their library, and the Pizzutis own a significant number of other works by Stella.

Ron and his wife, Ann, began collecting art with a piece they purchased at the auxiliary Pace Gallery on East Broad Street in Columbus. It was a work by Dutch artist Karen Appel, entitled Circus People, for which they paid \$900; \$100 down and \$100 a month. They still own that piece today as it launched what became a collection of over 2000 works of contemporary art from around the world.

Ann and Ron have a deliberate process in acquiring art, and very much enjoy meeting artists and visiting them in their studios. Frank Stella, Jean Dubuffet, Alexander Calder, Agnes Martin, David Hammons, John Chamberlain, and Willem de Kooning are among artists they collected early; today their attention has shifted to younger artists and artists of color. Notably, the Pizzutis own several works by Kehinde Wiley, Titus Kaphar and El Anatsui, among many others.

In 2018, the Pizzutis donated The Pizzuti Collection, a beautiful public gallery which opened in 2013, and over 50 pieces of their contemporary art, to the Columbus Museum of Art. Nanette Maciejunes, Executive Director of CMA said, “Ron and Ann’s importance as collectors is widely recognized. Their decades-long passion for supporting global contemporary art, including art from Africa and the African diaspora has enriched our community and advanced the vital conversation about Black creative expression.”

The Pizzutis passion for collecting art was made possible by Ron’s success in the development business. He founded the Pizzuti Companies in 1976 after a career in executive positions at Federated Department Stores and The Limited. Today the Pizzuti Companies develop institutional-quality office, residential, hotel, industrial and mixed-use projects throughout the Midwest and Southeast.

The company has developed over \$2 billion in real estate projects. The Pizzuti Companies stress quality, leadership, innovation, and attention to aesthetics in every one of their projects. They are headquartered in Columbus with offices in Chicago and Nashville. Ron serves as Chairman Emeritus, and his son, Joel serves as President and CEO. One of its signature projects,

Miranova Condominiums, a luxury 27-story tower located along the Scioto River, is where Ann and Ron call home.

The Pizzuti Companies recently entered the hospitality business by establishing the first art-oriented hotel, Le Meridien Columbus, The Joseph. A second Luxury Collection art hotel opened in 2020 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ron is the past Chair of the Kent State University Board of Trustees. He is past President of the Columbus Academy Board and a former trustee of Kenyon College, The Columbus College of Art and Design and Ohio Dominican University.

He has served as Chairman of the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission and is a trustee of the Wexner Center Foundation. He is a past Chair of the Columbus Museum of Art and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and is now a Trustee for Life of both. He has also served on the board of the Buckeye Ranch, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, Capital South Corporation, and the Center of Science and Industry.

Ron also played an active role in bringing professional sports to Columbus, including the MLS's Columbus Crew and NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets.

For his extraordinary contributions to education and the community, Ron has received honors including an Honorary Doctorate from Columbus College of Art and Design; the Central Ohio Entrepreneur of the Year – Real Estate Award; the Jewish National Fund Tree of Life Award for Exemplary Leadership and Humanitarian Service, and the Building Industry Association "Citizen of the Year."

Ron received the Kent State University Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Achievements and Service to the University, and the top honor – The Columbus Award – from the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Ron and his wife, Ann, were recognized by the Central Ohio Red Cross as "Humanitarians of the Year."

Ron is a past trustee of SITE, Santa Fe. He currently serves on the Drawing Committee of the Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as the board of the Gund Gallery at Kenyon College. Ron is a member of the Madison Square Park Conservancy Board of Directors in New York and chairs its Art Program Committee.

Ann's community service has truly been remarkable as well, spanning over 50 years. In the 1970s, Ann served as Secretary, Treasurer and then President of TWIG: Together with Important Goals in support of Nationwide Children's Hospital. She also served on the Board of Trustees for the Central Ohio Heart Association.

In the 1980s Ann served on the Board of Trustees of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and was involved with the Channel 6 TV Secret Santa Program. She also served as President for the Alpha Phi Sorority and Rush Advisor for Ohio State, and was named its "Outstanding Alumni" in 1980.

For nine years Ann served on the Board of Trustees of Marburn Academy, including terms as Marketing Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and President of the Board. She also spent eight years in similar positions with Action for Children and Columbus Junior Theatre.

In the 1990s Ann dedicated her efforts to leadership with Hospice Riverside Methodist Hospital, serving as President from 1995-97; the Y.W.C.A, serving as Secretary and Board Member; Columbus School for Girls, serving as President and Ohio Dominican University.

For her efforts Ann was recognized with the “Outstanding Volunteer Award” by Columbus Junior Theatre and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Education from Ohio Dominican.

From 1996-2006, Ann served on the Board of The Columbus Foundation, and Capital South Development Board. She also turned her attention to United Way of Central Ohio, serving as President, Chair of its Education Vision Council, Convening Chair of Start Smart Initiative and was instrumental in its ground breaking work in early childhood education.

From 2001-2008 Ann served on the Board of Directors, and as Chair of National Hospice Foundation and as a Founding Board Member of Women’s Fund of Central Ohio.

While raising a family of three children – Ellen, Dara and Joel, and now enjoying ten grandchildren - building a very successful business, serving in leadership roles across the community, and being recognized for their service and philanthropy, Ann and Ron have also inspired many who know them to make modest investments in art.

The Pizzutis are often asked by friends about the process of collecting. Ron’s advice: “Visit as many fairs, galleries and museums as possible. You’ll eventually figure out what you like and want to collect, because you can’t know that up front.” “Follow your Heart, not a Hedge Fund.” These are words to the wise from a couple who have done just that, and our community is the benefactor.

“Our community is blessed with Ann and Ron Pizzuti, who not only appreciate African, Afro-Cuban and African American art, but collect it, thereby supporting black artists who make a living through creation of art,” said Demetries Neely, Executive Director of The King Arts Complex. “When a young black artist’s work is identified and then acquired by the Pizzutis, people in the art world take notice. This is a tremendous lift to each artist they collect.”

“The Pizzutis have long been KAC supporters, as well, and I could not be more pleased we are honoring them in this very special way. They are so deserving of our Legends & Legacies recognition,” Neely said.



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PR Contact:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2021

The King Arts Complex 14th Annual Legends & Legacies Honoring Ann and Ron Pizzuti Fact Sheet

The King Arts Complex, through a multidisciplinary approach, offers performing, cultural and educational programs that seek to provide high artistic merit as well as varied and diverse experiences.

At 7 PM on Thursday, October 7th, 2021, The King Arts Complex will host their 14th Annual Legends & Legacies Honoring Ann and Ron Pizzuti.

- **Organization:** The King Arts Complex seeks to increase and disseminate knowledge regarding the vast and significant contributions of African Americans to the culture and history of America and the world.
- **Mission:** The KAC's mission is to preserve, celebrate and teach the cultural and historic heritage of African Americans while supporting a community with rich experiences and unique programs.
- **Event:** The annual Legends and Legacies pays tribute to local, regional, and national individuals who have shown a commitment to freedom through social justice, human rights, cultural democracy, artistic excellence, and service. Their actions have influenced and impacted their community, city, state, and beyond through philanthropy, commitment to community, policy development, service, leadership, preservation, creativity, and vision.

- **Event Details:**

- **Host Committee Co-Chairs:** Monica and Doug Kridler, and Elaine and Curt Moody

- **Host Committee Members:**

Donna and Nick Akins	Audrey and Harvey Glick	Nannette and George
Drs. Jamie and Steve Allen	Joy and Michael	Maciejunes
Carol and Dave Aronowitz	Gonsiorowski	Mo and David Meuse
Lori Barreras and Alex	Jasmine and Reuben Green	Marlon Moore
Fischer	Sandra Harbrecht-Ratchford	Demetries Neely
George Barrett	and Robin Ratchford	Jim Negron
Congresswoman Joyce Beatty	Mark Hatcher	Alicia and Greg Overmyer
and the late Otto Beatty, Jr.	Cindy and Larry Hilsheimer	Sue Porter
Heather and Frederic Bertley	Lisa Hinson	Robyn and Ron Ransom
Jeri Block and Bobby	Jack Jackson and Robert	Achea and Michael Redd
Schottenstein	Storbeck	Barbara and RL Richards
Barbara and David Brandt	Donna and Larry James	Michelle and Pete Scantland
Alycia Broz	Olivia Johnson	Jody and Jeff Scheiman
Yvette McGee Brown and	Dara Pizzuti and Richard	Renee and Alex Shumate
Tony Brown	Jolly	Danielle and George Skestos
Jessica Burton	Erika and Ramon Jones	Sheila and Gene Smith
Janelle and Michael B.	Mary and Tom Katzenmeyer	Joy and Bruce Soll
Coleman	Katie and Brett Kaufman	Othelda Spencer
Lisa and Tom Courtice	Linda and Michael Kaufmann	Jacqueline and Dean Taylor
Tanny Crane and John Wolff	Gale King	Susan Tomasky and Ron
Lynnda and Steve Davis	Linda and Frank Kass	Ungvarsky
Lisa and Jeff Edwards	Mary K. Lazarus	Amy Grace and Doug Ulman
Sherri Geldin and Daniel		Arlene and Michael Weiss
Verdier		

As of October 6, 2021

- **Event Directors:** Demetries Neely, Executive Director & CEO
Jevon Collins, Performing Arts Director
Darla Reid, Facilities Director
- **Sponsors:** Presented by WBNS-10TV, American Electric Power, Bath & Body Works, Cameron Mitchell, Cardinal Health, Columbus Blue Jackets, Columbus Business First, Columbus Crew SC, the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus State Community College, COTA, Covelli Enterprises, Crabbe Brown & James, Crane Group, Deloitte, Donatos, Encova Insurance, Equitas Health, Greenberg Traurig, Hamilton Parker, Honda, Huntington National Bank, Kelley Companies, Kent State University, Kenyon College, Nationwide Children's, NBC 4, The Ohio State University, Orange Barrel Media, Park National Bank, Ann and Ron Pizzuti, PNC Bank, Robert Weiler Company, Sayre Charitable Fund, and Squire Patton Boggs. (As of October 6, 2021)

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Ticketing Information:

General Admission: \$52

14th Annual Legends & Legacies Honoring Ann and Ron Pizzuti - Information
<https://kingartscomplex.com/programs/legends-legacies-award/>

14th Annual Legends & Legacies Honoring Ann and Ron Pizzuti - Tickets
<https://my.cbusarts.com/2714>

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