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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rialto Square Theatre Launches Foundation Insuring the Future

Joliet, IL: The Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority (WCMEAA), owner and operator of the Rialto Square Theatre, announces the creation of the Rialto Square Theatre Foundation (RSTF) and the appointment of its members and officers. As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization the new Foundation will focus on raising funds to support the historic Rialto Square Theatre.

“The new RSTF reflects a transformation of the not-for-profit corporation that has been supporting the Rialto for more than twenty years,” explains Randy Green, General Manager of the historic theatre. “The Rialto’s fundraising for more than two decades has been done under different not-for-profit models. This new model as a Foundation allows for a more directed and focused effort to encourage public, private and corporate support for the theatre, its operations and programs.”

The new RSTF Board of Directors, who were seated on June 1st of this year, were recruited following an extensive assessment of how the Rialto’s future could be enhanced by a more extensive fundraising program. “This group of people, who all share a deep passion for the Rialto, agreed to work to ensure the theatre will be here for decades to come,” explains James V. Smith, Vice Chairman of the WCMEAA. “When you look at those who have stepped forward to take on this effort, you see a representation of the community ranging from civic leaders to corporate and business leaders who are committed to the value of arts and culture in our community,” comments Smith. “These people are truly clear thinking and thoughtful, with the best interest of the theatre at heart. We are most fortunate to have this group step forward to lead this Foundation. The formation of the RSTF is probably the most significant event, second only to the saving of the Rialto in the 80’s,” concludes Smith.

The RSTF Board of Directors are led by its officers, President James Waters, Vice President of Caterpillar, retired, Vice President Tricia Simpson, Midwest Public and Government Affairs Manager Exxon Mobil Corporation, Secretary Steve Randich, President of First Community Bank, and Randy Green, General

Manager of the Rialto, who will serve as its Treasurer. Completing the Board of Directors roster are Lee Bailey, owner of Bailey's Carpet One, Rex Easton, Chairman of Packard Transport, Inc., Mohra Gavankar, President RoCo Production and Vice President Rockdale Controls, Ed Jarot, attorney, Dystrup, Hoster & Jarot, P.C., Lynne Lichtenauer, Director of Alumni Relations & Development Joliet Township High School Alumni Association and Kevin Reardon, Joliet banking executive, retired. James V. Smith, owner of James V. Smith & Associates, will serve on the Foundation Board as the representative of the WCMEAA.

Foundation President James Waters explained his focus for the organizations efforts, "Through the vision and determination of those who have preceded us, Will County is home to one of the world's most beautiful theaters with a proud tradition of providing the community with a mix of professional performances, community performances, and arts education. It is our responsibility to protect and enhance this legacy for future generations."

Two honorary board members were also named: Dorothy Mavrich, Joliet music teacher, retired, who led a grass roots effort to keep the Rialto from being demolished in 1980 and founded the organization that today is the WCMEAA. Patricia Kassis Lambrecht, Chairperson of T.J. Lambrecht Construction in recognition of her lead gift in the creation of Rialto's new Thomas J. and Patricia Kassis Lambrecht Hospitality Suite.

The Foundation will focus on four primary areas: growth and development of the Rialto's major endowment, arts education, capital improvements and annual operations. One of the first initiatives of the new Foundation is to fulfill a challenge grant made by The Wadsworth Family to achieve a \$1 million goal for the major endowment. The Wadsworth challenge grant provides a matching gift to encourage others to contribute in order to reach and surpass this \$1 million goal. The purpose of the Major Endowment is to provide revenues to support new and expanded programs presented by the Rialto.

For information about giving opportunities through the Rialto Square Theatre Foundation contact Mary Beth Clausen, Director of Development at (815) 726-7171 extension 206.

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