



NEWS RELEASE

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WISHBONE

An Event Supporting Joslyn's Kent Bellows Mentoring Program

(Omaha, NE) – Joslyn Art Museum presents a special evening of art, inspiration, and fun at the third annual *Wishbone* event supporting Joslyn's Kent Bellows Mentoring Program on Friday, March 27, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm (program at 7:30 pm). Heavy hors d'oeuvres; cocktails; dancing to the music of Bad Country; and a pop-up art workshop will create an unforgettable evening. Held this year at the Museum, attendees will have the opportunity to view select works by the program's alumni artists (some alumni work will be available for purchase). Menu includes honey glazed ham on cheese biscuits with Dijon mustard, Thai corn fritters with mango dipping sauce, buffalo chicken in endive, martini salad cups, and more, plus desserts from La Charlotte – Caniglia Pastries, Eileen's Cookies, and Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Wishbone honorary chairs are Lisa and Rob Johnson. Sponsors are Phyllis Bellows, Charles and Julie Burt, James and Robin Griess, Carl and Teri Gumbiner, Steven Martin and Amy Haddad, and Claudia Martin. *Wishbone* tickets are \$50 (\$30 tax deductible) and are on sale through Friday, March 20, at joslyn.org.

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About the Kent Bellows Mentoring Program

January 1, 2014, Joslyn welcomed into its family the newly named Kent Bellows Mentoring Program and ownership of the Kent Bellows Studio, located at 33rd and Leavenworth Street in Omaha. The studio was established as a nonprofit in 2007 to create an art mentor program for teens as a legacy of Nebraska-born artist Kent Bellows (1949–2005), whose realist work is part of Joslyn's collection. That entity dissolved in 2013, and Joslyn assumed responsibility for the future of its successful program, recognized for its dynamic vision, unique and versatile curriculum model, and exceptional work with young people.

Kent Bellows Studio remains the physical location for the Mentoring Program and, as an integral piece of Joslyn's whole, the program allows the Museum to significantly expand its active engagement of teens, local artist mentors, and youth agencies throughout the metro area. The Kent Bellows Mentoring Program gives teens access to professional artists, art supplies, exhibition space, and a creative community founded on sharing ideas, working together, and building talent in the arts. The program serves students, grades nine through twelve, who may be enrolled in any public or private school, homeschooled, or receiving their education through some other non-traditional setting. Teens visit the studio twice a week, in two- to three-hour blocks (after school and/or on Saturday), to work with mentors on creative projects. Each semester presents the possibility of 65 contact hours, with three possible semesters per year. Programs available to students include Artist-in-Residence; Clay Media; Critical Arts; Digital Arts; Fashion Art; Eco Arts; Multimedia Arts; Urban Arts; and Offsite Artist-in-Residence for teens in the juvenile justice system, foster care, or who are hospitalized.

The Kent Bellows Mentoring Program produces three to four large scale community murals and three public exhibitions annually. A creative community of over 80 local and professional artists has participated in the mentoring program through the years. The program collaborates on art projects with local organizations and businesses which have included Avenue Scholars, Habitat for Humanity, Omaha Symphony, Film Streams, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Together Inc., the Union for Contemporary Art, Project Interfaith, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Creighton University's Center for Health Policy and Ethics, and Omaha Public Library.

The Kent Bellows Mentoring Program is a Partner Member of the Midlands Mentoring Partnership. Inclusion is reserved for programs that meet or exceed best practices for mentoring, as outlined in the *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring* (3rd Edition). Additionally, the program received above average scores in a third party survey conducted by Volunteer Program Assessment-UNO.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration (new in 2014).

General Museum Admission: Free (additional charge for general public adults for select exhibitions).

Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

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