



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 1, 2007

**WHO: Mark Funkhouser and Kansas City Arts  
Community leaders**

**WHAT: Major Policy Announcement**

**WHEN: February 2, 10:30 a.m.**

**WHERE: Dolphin Gallery, 1901 Baltimore Avenue**

**FUNKHOUSER ANNOUNCES PLAN TO GIVE LEADERS IN KC'S ARTS  
COMMUNITY A BIGGER ROLE IN THE RENAISSANCE OF DOWNTOWN**

Mayoral Candidate Mark Funkhouser will make a major announcement about his plan for the revitalization of Downtown Kansas City at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Dolphin Gallery.

"Kansas City has one of the most vibrant arts communities in the nation," Funkhouser said. "The leaders in this community are the ones who first breathed life into areas of our city that had almost been forgotten. Their efforts sparked the downtown redevelopment frenzy we've seen for the last eight years in Kansas City."

"We need to embrace these pioneers of Kansas City's renaissance who have too often been left out of the decision-making process," Funkhouser added. "As Mayor, I will reach out to this community and ask its leaders to serve on the boards and committee which set policy for Downtown's revitalization – the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, the MODESA Board and the TIF Commission."

Funkhouser said his decision is based in large part on common sense – "These citizens have had proven successes in stimulating the economy *along with* the culture" – as well as the highly regarded work of Richard Florida, whose series of books about the "Creative Class" have revolutionized the way cities approach revitalization. As a result, cities are now actively seeking ways to position themselves on the cutting edge of American culture, in order to attract residents and continue to grow and thrive.

"You will probably never hear another Mayoral candidate say this, but Kansas City's leaders need to get hip," Funkhouser said.

As a candidate for mayor, Funkhouser decided that arts community leaders would be among the first people he should approach. He was surprised when these outstanding citizens told him he was the only candidate to reach out to them. Indeed, they said, City leaders rarely had either.

"When I'm mayor, these leaders of the arts community will not feel left out," Funkhouser said. "I will bring our Creative Class to the table as we continue to plan how to rebuild our city."

Mark Funkhouser will deliver a speech. Artistically created chocolates by Crossroads chef Christopher Elbow will be provided as evidence of the great things happening in Kansas City. [##END##]

**Additional Information Contact: Campaign Headquarters (Britt Nichols)**

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*Paid for by Funkhouser for Kansas City, Evert Asjes, III, Treasurer*