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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
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2012 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards Arts Clayton

Jonesboro, Georgia- on Sunday, July 15, 2012 at the Annual Conference, the National Association of Counties (NACo) awarded Arts Clayton with two prestigious awards in the 2012 Achievement Award category for Program and “Best in Category.” This recognition is for the **Art Partners Preserve Historic Property** in the population category of 200,000+. In addition, Arts Clayton also received the NACo 2012 Arts and Culture Award for the **Kaleidoscope of Young Artist** program.

The **Art Partners Preserve Historic Property** is recognized for its multi-jurisdictional collaborations, which supported Arts Clayton’s move into this historic property. Receiving grants from the city, county, state, and federal levels, the building now hosts a summer camp, after-school art programs, a three dimensional sculpture garden, and more. Overwhelming results from the year 2011 show roughly 64,000 local residents participated in 30 exhibits, 240 art classes, 24 workshops, and numerous community outreach events. All based on arts programming available to children, families, and the ethnic diversity of the community. The revitalization of Jonesboro Historic District, including Arts Clayton, has encouraged more businesses, appeals to more families, and promotes more activity involvement.

The **Kaleidoscope of Young Artists** program focuses on a wide array of fun and in-demand sources of artistic expression for the County’s youth. The program is geared around a summer art camp, which provides a unique partnership between Arts Clayton and the Jackson Elementary School of the Arts. The program provides both visual and performing arts which meets the National Endowment for the Arts guidelines for both school-based and community-based learning for ages 6-13. At the summer camp, all four disciplines of the arts are included (dance, music, drama, and visual). Twenty-four classes over a period of ten days with certified art teachers include singing, orchestra, guitar, dance, ceramics, painting, 3D sculpture, stage performance, acting, and more. In total, the Kaleidoscope summer program offers 240 art classes benefitting the youth of Clayton County and their Families.

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112 Smith Street Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3208