

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

**Rep. Slaughter Speaks at Annual Arts Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill**

*As Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus Slaughter Stresses Importance of the Arts*

**Washington, DC** - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee and co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, called for increased funding for the arts and education during a speech this morning at the Congressional Arts Advocacy Day Breakfast. The event was part of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Arts Advocacy Day conference sponsored by Americans for the Arts which focuses on bringing together entertainment, arts, education, and policy leaders on Capitol Hill.

**“Every year, Congress is called upon to define our nation's priorities, and I am so grateful that all of you are here today to remind us of the important role that arts and culture play in our lives, our history, our economy, and our future,”** said Rep. Slaughter in her remarks. **“**

**Employers today in America are looking for creative and dynamic young men and women to fill their rosters. To give our children the tools they need for success, we must invest in giving them access to arts education.**

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**“By funding arts programs, we are helping our economy today and working to ensure its strength tomorrow,”** she added, noting that, **“arts industries create**

**local jobs, and arts programs in schools help our students to learn faster and think deeper about their lives and their world.&quot;**

**&quot;We know that to be true in Western New York, where despite recent economic troubles, arts-related industries have continued to benefit the economies of both Buffalo and Rochester,&quot;** she said.

This year's breakfast also featured an appearance by Wynton Marsalis, Artistic Director of Jazz at the Lincoln Center. Actors Chris Klein and Jane Powell were also in attendance.

The annual event was hosted by Americans for the Arts and held in conjunction with the Congressional Arts Caucus and the 90 Arts Advocacy Day National co-sponsors.

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