

Ruby Iwamasa honored as 2010 Art Sweetheart

What: Art Sweetheart Luncheon Honoring Ruby Iwamasa

Where: Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

When: February 12, 2009, 11.30 am – 1 pm

Cost: \$45 registration due by February 9

For more information: Call (989) 837-1885 or visit www.becreative360.org

Midland -- At a gala luncheon on Friday, February 12, Ruby Iwamasa of Midland will be named Creative 360's 2010 Art Sweetheart. The award is presented annually to a mid-Michigan individual who has made significant contributions to the support and advancement of the arts and culture through exceptional vision, leadership, and commitment. The Valentine-themed luncheon will include a 3-course meal from Northwood University's NADA Center, opportunity for tributes from guests, and a talk by the honoree reviewing her fascinating life as an arts advocate and civic leader. The event is a fundraiser for Creative 360.

About Ruby Iwamasa

Ruby is a natural-born optimist, a cheerleader who loves meeting people and listening to their life stories. She has a zest for living and learning. Ruby believes that having a passion for whatever you do in life makes all the difference in the world. Born on a farm in Anaheim, California, she and her family were interned in Poston, Arizona in 1942. In 1961, Ruby became a teacher and married Bob. They've been together for 48 years—42 of those years in Midland. While Bob worked for Dow Chemical, Ruby volunteered and raised three sons. Today, Bob and Ruby have 3 grandchildren. After Ruby discovered Delta's Channel 19, she became a 12-year supporter; and in 1983, officially joined the Channel 19 staff. For the next 20 years, her community involvement in education and advocacy as well as volunteerism intensified. Ruby retired in 2003 to prepare for service as Rotary 6310's Centennial District Governor.

About the Art Sweetheart award

For the past eight years, Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) has honored an area resident for contributions of vision, leadership, and advocacy for the arts. Honorees meet the following criteria:

- an advocate and supporter of the arts and humanities in the Tri-Cities area for at least 10 years
- publicly identified with the arts and humanities
- volunteers in activities that support the arts and humanities
- involved with more than one arts agency or organization

Past recipients of the award:

2003 – Dorothy Yates, Midland journalist and author

2004 – Virginia (Ginny) Morrison, Midland arts and humanities advocate

2005 – Janet I. Martineau of Saginaw, former arts and entertainment editor of the *Saginaw News*

2006 – Barbara Prince-Sovereign, Midland writer and human potential guide

2007 – Sally Moss of Midland, early childhood educator

2008 – Judy Rapanos of Midland, arts advocate, chair of the Michigan Humanities Council, and Presidential appointee to the National Museum and Library Services Board

2009 – Nancy Barker of Midland, former Vice President of External Affairs at Northwood University, ATHENA award recipient and Vice Chair of the Art Serve Michigan Board of Directors

Creative 360, formerly Creative Spirit Center, is located at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

About Creative 360

Creative 360, formerly known as Creative Spirit Center, is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, art exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Visit www.becreative360.org for more information about the offerings at Creative 360, or call (989) 837-1885 to request a mailed copy.

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