

OVER \$425,000 RAISED TO SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN **Works by Canada's finest artists are auctioned off at Splash 2007**

For Immediate Release

Vancouver, October 17, 2007 – More than 500 people came together October 13 to support arts education for children at Splash 2007, Arts Umbrella's annual art auction & gala evening, presented by TELUS. The black tie event celebrated its 25th year and raised over \$425,000 in net proceeds, a fundraising milestone.

The top auction seller at \$20,000 was *Middle Beach Pacific Rim* (2006, acrylic on paper, 21" x 30" paper size) by renowned local artist Gordon Smith, followed by Ross Penhall's *Winter 07 Lighthouse Park* (2007, oil on canvas, 72" x 36") which sold for \$18,000, and Cori Creed's *down pilot house road* (2007, oil on canvas, 36" x 72") which sold for \$13,000.

Works by new Splash artists Mario Armitano and Glenn Payan were also big sellers, each bringing in \$12,500.

Splash has become Vancouver's pre-eminent art auction and a key fundraising event for Arts Umbrella, the country's leading visual and performing arts institute for young people, ages 2 to 19. Over the past 25 years, the event has raised millions of dollars and enabled thousands of students to participate in visual, performing and media arts programs.

"Over the last 25 years Splash has embodied the art of giving and this year was no exception," said Arts Umbrella executive director Lucille Pacey. "We are blown away by the generosity of our sponsors, our event partners and volunteers, the artists who donate their work, the people who support us by purchasing tickets to attend, and those who purchase art the night of. Their contributions will enable us to bring the arts to thousands of young people, many of whom might not otherwise be able to participate, and for that we are eternally grateful."

Building on the success of last year's partnership, TELUS joined Splash once again as the Presenting Sponsor of the event.

"TELUS is proud our partnership with Arts Umbrella helps them do their important work," said Pamela McDonald, TELUS senior director of Community Affairs and Arts Umbrella board member. "Arts Umbrella plays a critical role in removing barriers to young people's participation in the arts, enriching their lives while fostering creativity and wide-eyed wonder."

About Arts Umbrella

Located on Granville Island in Vancouver, Arts Umbrella is Canada's pre-eminent arts institute for young people, ages 2 to 19. While thousands of children participate in our tuition-based programs each year, we reach thousands more in their neighbourhoods through free programs, bringing the arts to kids who otherwise would not be able to participate. For more information on Arts Umbrella, please visit www.artsumbrella.com.

About TELUS

TELUS is a leading national telecommunications company in Canada, with \$8.9 billion of annual revenue and 10.9 million customer connections including 5.3 million wireless subscribers, 4.5 million wireline network access lines and 1.1 million Internet subscribers. TELUS provides a wide range of communications products and services including data, Internet protocol (IP), voice, entertainment and video. Committed to being Canada's premier corporate citizen, we give where we live. Since 2000, TELUS and our team members have contributed more than \$91 million to charitable and non-profit organizations and volunteered more than 1.7 million hours of service to local communities. Eight TELUS Community Boards across Canada lead our local philanthropic initiatives. For more information about TELUS, please visit telus.com.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Tamara Slomka
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
(604) 681-5268 ext 249
tslomka@artsumbrella.com