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ARTISTS WHOOPI GOLDBERG, WILLIAM WEGMAN JOIN PUBLIC CELEBRATION TO REOPEN HUDSON GUILD'S ELLIOT CENTER

Weeklong festivities inaugurate newly renovated facility on Manhattan's west side

May 3, 2005—After more than a year of reconstruction, renovation, and fundraising, Hudson Guild's flagship location, the Elliott Center, will reopen later this month with a series of community events and salutes from celebrities and public officials.

Whoopi Goldberg, who attended Hudson Guild's theater program in the 1980s before her rise to fame, will return to receive the Guild's first Arts in the Community Award at a public ceremony. Chelsea resident and artist William Wegman will make a personal appearance to inaugurate "Strange but True," an exhibit of select works from his world-famous collection of weimaraner photographs. This playful display will be shown in New York City for the first time through July 8 at one of the Guild's newly renovated art galleries.

"Reopening the Elliott Center as a brand new facility for the people of Chelsea is our dream come true," said Hudson Guild's Executive Director, Janice McGuire. "Everyone who worked so hard for the past 18 months had absolute confidence that this day would arrive. So we thank them all—the City of New York, our donors, our elected officials, our staff, and our loyal community here in Chelsea. This is their day to celebrate."

The reopening of the Elliott Center begins with a private cocktail reception and guided tour for donors. Public activities include the opening of the Wegman exhibit, and the awards presentation with Whoopi Goldberg (see schedule following) as well as numerous events for the community.

The Elliott Center is located on West 26th Street in housing owned by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). A top-to-bottom renovation of its three floors was possible thanks to a unique public-private partnership that includes a 25-year, rent-free lease by NYCHA to Hudson Guild. This agreement helped launch an \$11 million capital campaign that attracted funding from donors, foundations, and other private sources. It also kept NYCHA's investment to a fraction of what would have needed to bring the building up to current standards.

Hudson Guild provides a variety of community-building services and activities primarily for Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, including education, social services, healthcare, and the arts for children, adults, and seniors. The Guild was established in 1895 by social reformer Dr. John Lovejoy Elliott. More information is available at www.hudsonguild.org.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • ELLIOTT CENTER REOPENING

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| Tuesday, May 17
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Cocktail reception for donors and friends
Invitation-only |
| Friday, May 20
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | William Wegman Gallery Show and Benefit
“Strange but True”—Photographs available for purchase; portion of proceeds to benefit Hudson Guild
Free and open to the public |
| Saturday, May 21
10:00 am- 4:00 pm | Community Open House “Preview”
Health Fair, basketball tournament, art classes, face painting, sign-ups for community food co-op
Free and open to the public |
| Tuesday, May 24
12:00 Noon | Ribbon Cutting & Community Arts Award to Whoopi Goldberg
Community leaders, performance by Hudson Guild children; reception follows
Free and open to the public |

Editors: To schedule a tour of the renovated Elliott Center and to attend any of the reopening events, call 212-687-0607, normav@nvcommunications.com.