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For Immediate Release (June 5 2008):

Pensacola Opera Donald H. Partington Center Dedicated

Today, Thursday, June 5th, Pensacola Opera supporters gathered for a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the Pensacola Opera Donald H. Partington Center at 75 S. Tarragona St. A luncheon was followed by the official reopening of the Opera Center and dedication of the new office and conference spaces. Hope Allen and other Ambassadors from the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce presided over the ribbon-cutting.

As part of today's dedication, the Pensacola Opera Center was renamed after Donald H. Partington. Partington has been a leader in the community for Pensacola Opera on multiple levels since its founding. He sings with the Pensacola Opera Chorus, and serves as the only Trustee Emeritus on the Pensacola Opera Board. It was his generous gift that allowed the Pensacola Opera to move into its own space ten years ago. He spearheaded the effort to expand the Center to accommodate the growing needs of the company. After years of tireless, generous, and unparalleled service, it is only fitting that the Pensacola Opera Donald H. Partington Center bears his name.

The Pensacola Opera Center building has seen many changes since the Opera moved into the old Liquid Lounge in 2000. As the company has moved to a fully-professional producing company with a staff of seven, the Opera Center itself struggled to contain the company's growing needs. The new addition, which provides 1300 square feet of office space, allows Pensacola Opera to accommodate its growing staff and create a private conference and practice room. The main hall will become a 1,000 sq. ft rehearsal and banquet hall, used for the Opera to stage mainstage productions and produce smaller workshop pieces, and available for rental to the general public.

Today's ribbon-cutting was an opportunity for Pensacola Opera to thank the individuals and businesses whose generous financial support has made this exciting addition possible. While the new

office spaces are up and running, funds are still needed to complete renovations. Opportunities to support the Opera's building fund remain through the "Pave the Way" campaign. For more information on how you can purchase an inscribed brick for the new Opera Center sidewalk, contact Erin Kelley Sammis at (850) 433-6737 or erin@pensacolaopera.com.

Pensacola Opera would also like to thank the companies whose generous donations of time and materials have made the move to the new space possible: J. Chandler General Contractors, Contract Resources, Hatch Mott MacDonald, Masland Carpets, Urban Objects, W.R. Taylor, Charlie Merritt's Paint & Wallcoverings, Business Communications & Data, Bryan Mullins Professional Services, Tip McAlpin, Spencer, Maxwell, Bullock Architects, and Floor City USA.