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PHILHARMONIC CENTER, IMAGINE SOLUTIONS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP FOR 2013 CONFERENCE

The Phil to host world-class ideas conference in a new format beginning next year

Searching for Solutions Institute and the Philharmonic Center for the Arts have formed an innovative partnership to spark creative dialogue on critical issues. The organizations this week also announced plans to bring the Imagine Solutions ideas conference back to the Phil in 2013, with a new format and price structure.

The 2013 Imagine Solutions conference will showcase thought leaders from a wide range of disciplines including science, economics, health care, public policy, energy, the environment and the arts at an all-day event on February 11 and during a follow-up evening session on March 18. The theme of the 2013 Imagine Solutions conference will be “America at its Very Best.” In the coming years, the conference will expand to include multiple evening and afternoon sessions.

“The Phil is pleased to create a forum for stimulating thinking and dialogue on important issues. We are a strong supporter of lifelong learning and the Imagine Solutions conference is a perfect fit with our mission,” said Philharmonic Center CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, who announced the partnership with Randall Antik, CEO of Imagine Solutions. “We are delighted to be working with Imagine Solutions to bring important thought leaders to the Naples community.”

Antik said the Imagine Solutions/Philharmonic Center partnership is designed to “maximize the strengths of each organization. We plan to build on the success of Imagine

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Solutions, drawing on our network of outstanding speakers and leading edge resources to create a nationally recognized conference at the world-class facilities of the Philharmonic Center campus.”

The non-profit, non-partisan Searching for Solutions was founded in 2008 with a goal of uniting the world’s top thought leaders with local proven problem-solvers who have the resources, connections and desire to make the world a better place.

The conference has been developed with input and support from the Aspen Institute, the TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conferences and the Milken Institute, Antik said.

As in previous conferences, participants for the 2013 Imagine Solutions conference are expected to include Nobel Prize laureates, education thought leaders, major voices in the arts, Time 100 and Fortune 500 honorees, renowned authors, scientists and economists and inspiring young leaders. National media partners for the 2013 conference will include The Economist, U.S. News and World Report, Scientific American, CNBC, Nova and the National Geographic Channel.

More than 20 thought leaders will speak at the February 11 event. The cost will be \$600. The partnership anticipates drawing more than 2,000 attendees for the two events planned for 2013.

Previously, the Imagine Solutions conference was limited to 500 participants each year. The event was first held at the Philharmonic Center on February 22-23, 2010 and moved to the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in 2011. Among the renowned speakers who participated over the past two years were former U.S. Comptroller General David Walker; soprano Measha Brueggergosman; Carter Roberts, CEO of the World Wildlife Fund; renowned conductor Benjamin Zander; doctor/clown/social activist Patch Adams; Debi Brooks, co-founder of the

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Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research; Dean Ornish, founder of the Preventive Medicine Research Institute; global economy historian Niall Ferguson; Ann Veneman, former UNICEF director and U.S. Department of Agriculture secretary; Dennis M. Bushnell, chief scientist at NASA's Langley Research Center; bestselling author and life sciences expert Juan Enriquez; population geneticist Spencer Wells; and Wall Street analyst Liz Peek.

A number of compelling initiatives in education, health care and social entrepreneurship have started both locally and at a national level as a result of the interactions between speakers and audiences at this conference.

For more information on the 2013 Imagine Solutions conference, please contact Randy Antik at Randy@imagesolutionsconference.com or call Philharmonic Center CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen at (239) 254-2601.