



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joanna St. Angelo
Executive Director
Sammons Center for the Arts
O: (214) 520-7788 x 103; C: (214) 202-9300
joanna@sammonsartcenter.org

Deborah Marine
Director of Marketing/PR
Sammons Center for the Arts
O: (214) 520-7788 x 102; C: (214) 793-9033
deborah@sammonsartcenter.org

Sammons Center for the Arts Mourns the Loss of Philanthropist Mary Anne Sammons Cree

DALLAS/ July 22, 2021 — The Sammons Center for the Arts is mourning the loss of our longtime friend and stalwart supporter Mary Anne Sammons Cree. Mrs. Cree passed away Wednesday, July 21, 2021, following a brief illness. Mrs. Cree served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Sammons Center from 2010 to the present.

She was the only child of Charles A. Sammons, founder of Dallas-based Sammons Enterprises for whom the Center is named. Since its opening in 1988, Sammons Center has served as an arts incubator for the city's vibrant and growing cultural community. It is home to 14 diverse arts organizations and serves more than 90 others. Supporting these small arts organizations was a passion of Mrs. Cree's.

"She was so gracious and humble, I don't think Dallas fully understands the powerful impact Mrs. Cree's support has had across the Dallas arts community," said Joanna St. Angelo, Sammons Center's Executive Director. "She certainly helped the Sammons Center successfully support dozens of arts organizations, and her giving extended to large institutions as well. Her passion for the arts has made a significant and enduring effect in Dallas."

In addition to her many years serving as Board Chair at the Sammons Center, Mrs. Cree played an important role in the success of other arts and cultural organizations including the Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium at the Texas Discovery Gardens and the AT&T Performing Arts Center. She also served on the boards of the Dallas Museum of Art and the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

"Our city has lost a generational leader, and we've lost a dear friend," said St. Angelo.

[About the Sammons Center for the Arts](#)

The Sammons Center for the Arts was founded in 1981 to renovate the historic Turtle Creek Pump Station, built in 1909 at 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, and operate it as a multipurpose arts center. After two years of renovation, the Sammons Center opened March 1, 1988. A 501(c)(3) organization, the Sammons Center provides low-cost office, rehearsal, performance and meeting space as well as administrative resources to arts organizations representing every discipline. It is home to 14 performing arts organizations and serves more than 90 other arts and community organizations. For more information, call (214) 520-7788 or visit www.sammonsartcenter.org.