

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WYES WILL HOST ITS 2024 WYES GALA – IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE PRESENTED BY THE OSCAR J. TOLMAS CHARITABLE TRUST

The Annual Gala Continues to Raise Funds For WYES' Local And PBS Programming

New Orleans, LA — Enjoy relaxed, Key West vibes, where it's happy hour all evening long, at the **2024 WYES GALA – IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE PRESENTED BY THE OSCAR J. TOLMAS CHARITABLE TRUST**. Join WYES on Thursday, May 9, 2024, in its state-of-the-art media building in Lakeview, for an evening filled with margaritas, cheeseburgers, and live parrots!

The Patron Party sponsored by Ochsner Health begins at 7:00 p.m., tickets are \$500 per person. The Gala begins at 8:00 p.m., tickets are \$200 per person. Junior patron and gala tickets are available for ages 21-40. The Gala will be held at WYES located at 916 Navarre Avenue in New Orleans. Tickets can be purchased online at wyes.org/events.

Calling all Parrot Heads! WYES will welcome the Jimmy Buffett tribute group, the Landsharks Band, courtesy of Live Entertainment Sponsor Erin and JP Hymel. The band has appeared with Jimmy Buffett and also opened up for The Beach Boys.

All Gala tickets include Caribbean-themed cuisine by The Windsor Court, an open bar including island drinks made with Cuervo® Tradicional® and wine and champagne sponsored by New Orleans Entertainment Coalition from President Sandra Herman.

WYES would like to thank the event committee and our event co-chairs Alicia and Douglas Higginbotham, Erin and JP Hymel and Alison Toussaint-LeBeaux for their tireless efforts.

Another great way to support WYES is through the **WYES GALA ONLINE AUCTION** sponsored by The Rink. Online bidding will be held from Thursday, May 2 through the evening of the gala, Thursday, May 9, until 10:00 p.m. when the boards close. Attendance to the gala is not required to bid. A link to browse over 100 auction items, register and bid can be found soon at wyes.org/events. Thank you to our auction committee co-chairs Dreda and Conor Lutkewitte.

Auction highlights include a Viking, 8-day European river voyage, with meals, shore excursions and tours. Another auction highlight to accompany this year's gala theme is a framed 2011 New Orleans Jazz Fest Poster by Garland Robinette featuring Jimmy Buffett with a bonus of the signatures of both the artist and singer.

Bid high on a variety of gift cards from your favorite New Orleans restaurants, plus dining experiences including a private, four-course dinner for six at Dooky Chase's Restaurant; a chef's tasting menu for four with wine pairing at Arnaud's; a chef's tasting for two at Restaurant August; and more. Staycations include The Windsor Court, Hotel Monteleone, and more. Getaways to Key West, Jackson Hole, Napa Valley, the Amalfi Coast, and more. Bid on jewelry including 3-carat diamond hoop earrings from Diamonds Direct, art, sporting paraphernalia and outings. In addition, spa packages and boutique gift cards for all ages are being added daily.

As with all WYES events, we rely heavily on the support of our generous sponsors. We would like to thank the sponsors at the following levels: PRESENTING SPONSOR: Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust; MARGARITAVILLE SPONSOR: Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation; PATRON PARTY SPONSOR: Ochsner Health; ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR: Erin and JP Hymel; DANCE FLOOR SPONSOR: Paulette and Frank Stewart; INVITATION SPONSOR: Tia and Jimmy Roddy; CHANGES IN LATITUDES, CHANGES IN ATTITUDES SPONSOR: First Horizon, Gallo Mechanical, Hancock Whitney, IMTT, Gerri and Murray Valene; AUCTION SPONSOR: The Rink; SON OF A SON OF A SAILOR: Specialty Sponsors Lori and Bobby Savoie - Cheeseburger station; Yazoo Restorations - Light Up Cups; BUBBLES UP! WINE & CHAMPAGNE SPONSOR: New Orleans Entertainment Coalition, Sandra Herman, President.

Thank you to our media partners: *New Orleans* magazine, Gambel Communications | The New Orleans 100 and *Inside New Orleans* magazine.

ABOUT WYES:

For 67 years, WYES has worked to inform, teach, illuminate, entertain and inspire our entire community. It is the oldest public television station serving southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the 12th oldest in the nation, and the most utilized non-profit organization in our two states with as many as a half-million people using our broadcasts, outreach activities and website each week. We are proud to be part of the nation's largest classroom, the largest stage for the arts and a trusted window to the world. For more information, call (504) 486-5511 or visit wyes.org.