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For Immediate Release

Contact: Carrie Getty 208-522-0471 x 105; cgetty@idahofallsarts.org

Tap Dancing Senior Citizen Receives IFAC Arts Achievement Award Bechtel BWXT Idaho is Recipient of Arts Support Award

Idaho Falls, ID– The Idaho Falls Arts Council’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2007 Annual Arts Awards. Longtime Idaho Falls resident, dancer, and educator, **Betty Anderson**, will receive the “Achievement in the Arts Award” and steadfast arts supporter **Bechtel BWXT Idaho** will be receiving the “Support for the Arts Award.” The award presentation will be on Thursday, January 17, 8:00 pm, prior to the Chicago Blues Reunion performance in the Colonial Theater.

The Arts Council’s **Achievement in the Arts** award recognizes outstanding achievement in visual or performing artistry or arts programming. Betty Anderson has literally traveled the globe over the course of her lifetime performing and studying with some of the best teachers. Some highlights of her career include dancing at the Lido Club in San Francisco in 1945, when Glen Miller, Louis Armstrong and Cab Callaway were some of the names of the artists that regularly played in town. She also managed a dance supply business in Salt Lake City as well as Utah Ballet Folklorico for 9 years. When she returned to Idaho Falls, she opened a dance studio and has educated hundreds of dancers, many of which have gone on to have successful dance careers. She continues to teach and has been working with dancers in the 50+ age range helping them to stay active, make friends, and just enjoy life. Betty Anderson has touched the lives of countless people in our region and beyond, teaching dancers of all ages.

The **Support of the Arts** award recognizes outstanding financial or volunteer support of local arts organizations and/or artists. Since 1999, Bechtel BWXT Idaho has been a steadfast supporter of the arts. During the past eight years, they have donated more than \$2.5 million to many organizations, such as the Idaho Falls Symphony, the Art Museum of Eastern Idaho, the Museum of Idaho, the International Dance Festival, and the Idaho Falls Arts Council. Not only have they given financially, but their past and present employees have volunteered thousands of hours to arts and educational programs, while also donating generously to non-profits programs. Their contributions to area arts organizations have significantly helped to improve the quality of life in our region, helping to strengthen the fabric of our communities.

Past award winners in Achievement in the Arts include: Joe & Jacie Sites 2006, Linda Martin 2005, Dave Burger 2004, Eagle Rock Art Guild 2003, Actors Repertory Theatre of Idaho 2002, Shari Chadwick 2000, Deanne Hally 1999, Jerry Shively 1998 and Gloria Miller Allen 1997.

Past Support of the Arts Award winners include: Dick Clayton, Sr. 2006, Ralph & Mary Lynn Hartwell 2005, Anne Voilleque 2004, Steve, Cindy, Greg, Taylor & Betty Carr 2003, and Bank of Idaho 2002.

In coordination with other arts organizations and enthusiasts, the mission of the Idaho Falls Arts Council is to educate our community and enrich the quality of life by promoting, advocating and presenting a broad spectrum of the visual and performing arts in eastern Idaho.