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Philadelphia’s Barbara Chandler Allen Honored as 2009 Purpose Prize Fellow
Entrepreneurs Over 60 Win for Using Creativity, Experience to Solve Long-Standing Social Problems

(Philadelphia, PA) — Barbara Chandler Allen has been named a 2009 Purpose Prize fellow, an honor for social entrepreneurs over 60 who are using their experience and passion to take on society’s biggest challenges. Now in its fourth year, the \$17 million program is the nation’s only large-scale investment in social innovators in the second half of life.

Chandler Allen, who lives in Lafayette Hill, PA, is the Founder and Executive Director of the Philadelphia-based Fresh Artists, a nonprofit organization. Barbara was named a Fellow for her innovative work supporting art making and art education in severely under-resourced public schools.

She will join 46 other Purpose Prize Fellows at a Summit on Innovation on Oct. 31 – Nov. 1 at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business’ Center on Social Innovation, one of the world’s leading academic centers focused on social entrepreneurship.

The Fellows underscore a trend in entrepreneurialism later in life. According to studies by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the 55-64 age group is the most active in creating new ventures. Counter to stereotype, people ages 20-34, the study found, are the least entrepreneurial.

“More than ever, the problems facing our communities, country and world call out for creative solutions,” said Marc Freedman, co-founder of The Purpose Prize and author of *Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life*. “Fortunately, we don’t run out of ideas as we age. The Purpose Prize Fellows combine creativity, experience and passion with a desire to do something bigger than themselves,” Freeman continued.

The Purpose Prize supports Fellows by helping develop their capacity, linking them with funders and venture philanthropists and connecting them to other social innovators over 60. It is part of the Encore Careers campaign run by Civic Ventures, a national think tank on boomers, work and social purpose. Funding for The Purpose Prize comes from The Atlantic Philanthropies and the John Templeton Foundation.

“I have been guided by the concept that one shouldn’t have to choose between work and passion. I have found meaning, purpose and fulfillment from combining the two in this exciting encore career”, states Allen.

Sherry Lansing, CEO of the Sherry Lansing Foundation and former chair of Paramount Pictures’ Motion Picture Group, chairs the jury that selected this year’s winners. The 24 judges are leaders in business, politics, journalism and the nonprofit sector – including actor Sidney Poitier, social entrepreneur Thomas Tierney, former Senator Harris Wofford and journalist Cokie Roberts.

The Purpose Prize is a program of the Encore Careers campaign (www.encore.org), which aims to engage millions of boomers in encore careers combining social impact, personal meaning and continued income in the second half of life. The goal: produce a windfall of human talent to solve society’s greatest problems, from education to the environment, health care to homelessness.

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About Civic Ventures (www.encore.org)

Civic Ventures is a national think tank on boomers, work and social purpose.

About The Atlantic Philanthropies (www.atlanticphilanthropies.org)

The Atlantic Philanthropies are dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Their work is aimed at ageing, disadvantaged children and youth, population health, and reconciliation and human rights.

About the John Templeton Foundation (www.templeton.org)

The John Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for research and discoveries relating to what scientists and philosophers call the Big Questions. The Foundation supports work at the world's top universities in such fields as theoretical physics, cosmology, evolutionary biology, cognitive science, and social science relating to love, forgiveness, creativity, purpose, and the nature and origin of religious belief.

About Fresh Artists (www.freshartists.org)

Fresh Artists is an innovative nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering young lives through art by providing art supplies to art teachers in our most under-resourced public schools and engaging the children being served as full partners in the philanthropy. Fresh Artists identifies and invites student artists to donate digital images of their prize-winning art. Fresh Artists accepts corporate and individual contributions to fund the purchase of supplies for art teachers. As a thank-you, donors may choose large-scale reproductions of that student art for display in their facilities. It is a unique circle of giving where student art fulfills a corporate need and raises funds for future art making.