



For Immediate Release
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Chicago's Own Sheila Smith Joins Art Charity Auction During EXPO Chicago

(June 1, 2018) 501's For Humanity is happy to have Our American Voice® (OAV), join in its vision for the art charity auction being held during EXPO Chicago week on September 25, 2018. This event will take place in Loyola University's Water Tower campus, Lewis Towers Regents Hall, 1 E Pearson St, Chicago.

This event has captured the support of Chicago's Joyce Saxon who is a premier sponsor. One of 501's for Humanity's other sponsors, Fastlane Entertainment, will also be producing this event and anticipates many modern and contemporary works by Jean Michel Basquiat, Jackson Pollock, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, and the like.

501's newest featured charity beneficiary - the Barat Education Foundation's Our American Voice® - is led by Chair, Chicago's own Sheila Smith. OAV, a civics education program for elementary and middle school students, is about "bringing civics to life and preparing the citizens of tomorrow, today."

Over the past eight years, OAV specifically has engaged and empowered hundred of kids from disadvantaged communities across Illinois in its classroom and community projects. At the present time, OAV is in 26 schools across Illinois and continues to expand with more schools regionally and nationally.

For almost a decade, Barat has provided two innovative programs that connect student learning and active citizen engagement: Our American Voice® (OAV) and the U.S. Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources. Barat Foundation Chair, Smith is well known in the world of civic engagement service. She is a successful entrepreneur and an active leader in civic, community, and nonprofit organizations with a *commitment to education and addressing societal problems and issues, especially those of the disadvantaged*. Additionally, Smith is also president of Consult Ltd, a firm that invests in and consults small to mid-sized businesses.

Earlier in her career, Smith was appointed by President Bill Clinton to represent small businesses on the 15-member board of the National Cooperative Bank (NCB), a financial institution legislated by the U.S. Congress to expand the financing opportunities for cooperative businesses. The NCB Board appointed Smith to the Board of the NCB Development Corporation.

501's For Humanity's events benefit charities that support various causes from the plight of veterans to children to the homeless and those in need for a fresh start, while bringing about education and awareness to the world. With the recent addition of OAV, the scope of 501's For Humanity art charity auctions continues to grow. This foundation joins other 501's including the Veterans Are Foundation, Healing 4 Heroes, Fast Forward Restart, and the Gear Up Foundation.

Matt Virgin founder of 501's For Humanity is available for interviews. For more information contact Rochelle Arjmand at rochelle@arjmandcommunications.com, (312) 780-1465.

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