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**American Evaluation Association Awards Suzanne Callahan's *Singing Our Praises*
Outstanding Publication of the Year to Recognize Advancement in Field of Arts Evaluation**

Washington, DC —The American Evaluation Association presented Suzanne Callahan with its Outstanding Publication of the Year award for *Singing Our Praises: Case Studies in the Art of Evaluation*, which demystifies evaluation by highlighting examples of arts practitioners who have used it to learn about their success. The book, published by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters with the support of the Wallace Foundation, empowers artists and their partners who create programs to define success in ways that reflect their values. Through real-life stories, concrete tools, and techniques adapted from other fields, the book trains arts practitioners to design their own evaluations, transforming this intimidating requirement into a useful tool to reveal the worth of arts programs.

The American Evaluation Association (AEA) presents this national award annually to the “publication that has been instrumental to the theory or practice in the field of evaluation.” The award was announced in Toronto at the AEA’s international conference where 1,800 leading evaluators convened. AEA’s review of the book states, “Bravo, Suzanne Callahan, for writing a comprehensive guide to arts evaluation that clarifies the process for arts and cultural organization and pushes the evaluation conversation further.” Case studies in the book feature the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, MN; the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, OH; the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Dance Center of Columbia College, and Links Hall in Chicago, IL; as well as the United Kingdom’s British Council and Improbable Theater.

This award highlights the arts field’s growing leadership in evaluation. As author Suzanne Callahan says, “This award sends a strong message that art is valuable in ways that can be measured. The national leaders in evaluation are inspired by that value and endorse those measures.” The book emphasizes the growing national movement to expand and illustrate the ways in which the arts are assessed and valued. This work also underscores the rationale behind the increasing demand for assessment in the nonprofit sector.

Arts Presenters commissioned the book to help arts organizations tackle the demands of evaluation and highlight the evaluation successes that some of its members have achieved. Over the past decade, Callahan’s consulting firm has helped foundations and arts organizations across the United States in the areas of evaluation, strategic planning, and fundraising.

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Reverse: Background Information
Attached: Book Review

The American Evaluation Association is an international professional association of evaluators devoted to the application and exploration of program and personnel evaluation and technology. With approximately 4,000 members representing all 50 states in the US as well as more than 60 other countries, AEA works to improve evaluation practices and methods, increase evaluation use, promote evaluation as a profession, and support the contribution of evaluation theory and knowledge to understanding of human action. www.eval.org

The Association of Performing Arts Presenters is a national service and advocacy organization with more than 1,700 members worldwide dedicated to bringing artists and audiences together. Arts Presenters is committed to increasing community participation, promoting global cultural exchange, and fostering an environment for the performing arts to thrive. Arts Presenters works to create change through professional development, resource sharing, and civic engagement. www.artspresenters.org

Callahan Consulting for the Arts helps arts organizations and funders plan for, attain and measure their success. Since 1996, the firm has offered services in strategic planning, fundraising, philanthropic counsel, and evaluation. Founder Suzanne Callahan is a widely respected consultant for the performing arts. In addition to her work with numerous foundations including the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Chicago Community Trust, Callahan has served as Senior Specialist for the Dance Program at the National Endowment for the Arts, and has been a panelist or site visitor for the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Heinz Endowments. www.ForTheArts.org

Singing Our Praises: Case Studies in the Art of Evaluation.

Written by Suzanne Callahan. Published by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

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To purchase, visit www.artspresenters.org/services/bookstore.cfm