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For Immediate Release

PRESENTATION ACADEMY'S NEW ARTS & ATHLETIC FACILITY AWARDED BEST NEW LANDMARK OF 2009

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Dec.11, 2009) – Presentation Academy's new \$5 million Arts & Athletic Center, which is located at 900 South Fourth Street, was awarded Best New Landmark of 2009 by the architectural blog, brokensidewalk.com. Local architect and historian Steve Wisner teamed up with the *Broken Sidewalk* blog and asked readers to vote for their favorite out of 18 new projects.

As posted on the Broken Sidewalk website, "readers overwhelmingly praised the architectural detail and continuity of Presentation Academy's new addition with its original 19th century building and the surrounding neighborhood."

The Arts & Athletic Center is the first major new construction at Presentation since 1948, when an addition to the school's main structure at 861 South Fourth Street was completed. The building was designed by local architect Gil Stein of Gil Stein & Associates Architects, PSC. Whittenberg Construction was the project management company for the construction. The center houses a 700+ seat performance gymnasium, an auditorium/theatre, art and dance studios, athletic offices and a state-of-the art wellness center.

The property on which the Presentation Academy Arts & Athletic facility was constructed is the former home to a structure that housed several businesses including a car dealership. Presentation purchased that property in Sept. 2006, and received permission in July, 2007, to raze the existing structure. That work was completed by West End Demolition in August, 2007.

In May 2008, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, Mayor Jerry Abramson, Rep. Jim Wayne, Metro Council Member David Tandy, Catholic Schools Superintendent Leisa Schulz, and Presentation Academy representatives turned over the first shovels of dirt for the new facility during groundbreaking ceremonies. The student body was joined by neighboring businesses and organizations, and Pres alumnae, donors and friends as witnesses to that special occasion.

Construction of the new facility was completed in August and the building opened for students on the first day of school, Monday August 17. A formal Blessing and Dedication ceremony was held on September 13.

Presentation Academy officials view the new Arts & Athletic facility as a critical element in a vibrant and exciting future for the historic school that has more than 8,000 living alumnae. School leaders also view the new building as an investment in downtown Louisville, as Presentation considers the entire downtown area to be its campus. Presentation's unique location provides marvelous opportunities for young women to experience firsthand the business, social, religious, and cultural attributes that only a downtown school can offer.

Presentation Academy, founded in 1831 by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and located at 861 South Fourth Street, is the oldest continuously operating high school in Louisville. A Catholic, college-preparatory high school for girls, Presentation Academy emphasizes excellence in academics, a strong spiritual formation, leadership and personal development.

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