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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Michael J. Quinn, Niki Pagones Quinn, Breanna Lee Nussbickel, and Amina Kearney
Honored at Art After Dark**

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – The Art Effect is proud to announce the 2018 Art After Dark honorees **Michael J. Quinn** and **Niki Pagones Quinn, Creative Breanna Lee Nussbickel, and Amina Kearney** to be recognized on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 from 5:30-8:00pm at the Henry A. Wallace Center at The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Home.

At Art After Dark, The Art Effect will recognize local “Art Effectors” – individuals who are agents of social change in the Hudson Valley and who are passionate about arts and media and dedicated to youth development. The Art Effect selects its honorees based on their history with the organization as well as their positive impact on their community.

Community leaders and advocates for youth **Michael J. Quinn** and **Niki Pagones Quinn** are among the 2018 honorees. **Michael J. Quinn**, President and CEO of Rhinebeck Bank has held several roles in the Bank, starting as a management trainee upon his graduation from the University of Notre Dame in 1984. During his career with the Bank, he has held the positions of Branch Manager, Treasurer, and Senior Lending Officer. In 2004, he was appointed President and CEO.

Michael is a Board Member and former Chairman of the Board for Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a not-for-profit policy, planning, advocacy and research organization whose mission is to promote regional, balanced and sustainable solutions that enhance the growth and vitality of the Hudson Valley. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Family Services Inc., and previously served on the Board of the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Inc. Michael is also a Board Member of the New York Bankers Association. Michael is passionate about economic growth in the communities that Rhinebeck Bank serves.

Rhinebeck Bank has supported The Art Effect on several occasions by displaying student artwork from The Art Institute in their Beacon and Rhinebeck locations, as well as using Forge Media, The Art Effect's apprentice production house, to create a celebratory film for the bank's 150th anniversary in 2010.

Niki Pagones Quinn began her practice of law at the firm of Pagones, Cross and VanTuyl, PC, in Beacon, New York. She was a senior associate there until 1999, at which time she established her own practice. At Pagones, Cross and Van Tuyl, PC, and thereafter at her own firm, she handled real estate transactions, both residential and commercial, for buyers/borrowers, sellers and builders, as well as foreclosures, wills and estates. She practiced law as a solo practitioner until 2017, when she merged her practice with Robert S. Levine and Dale J. Lois and the firm of Levine & Levine, PLLC. Pagones-Quinn is the managing partner of the residential real estate department at Levine & Levine, PLLC and also handles other matters at the firm including foreclosures, wills, trusts and estates. Niki also represents many local and national mortgage lenders. Niki graduated from Villanova University in 1984, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Bridgeport in 1987. She is admitted to the New York State Bar Association.

Niki has served on the Rebuilding Together Dutchess County Board of Directors and the Go Red For Women Campaign. She has been on the committee for the Dutchess County Real Estate Charity Golf Tournament beginning in 2007 and since 2015, she has served as its Tournament Coordinator. The Dutchess County Real Estate Charity Golf Tournament annually raises funds for charities in the Hudson Valley Area.

Creative Breanna Lee Nussbickel is a fashion designer and entrepreneur, and a 2005 alumna of The Art Effect (when it was Mill Street Loft). Her experience at The Art Effect cultivated her art skills and passions, which led her to a career in the fashion industry. She received her BFA from the Fashion Institute of Technology majoring in Fashion Design and was the recipient of the 2009 FIT Cotton Incorporated Grant. Her studies also include an Illustration Art focus at the Design School Polimoda in Florence, Italy.

Breanna worked for nine years in the fashion industry as a designer for Victoria's Secret and Laura Ashley, and launched her own international luxury lingerie collection, Rococo Dessous. She recently returned to the Hudson Valley and is the creator and owner of The Honey Drop, an online and mobile boutique for handmade crystal jewelry, organic candles, and ethically-created artisan goods from around the world. Breanna currently works with renowned Rhinebeck designer Haldora on the design and the product development of her new collections. Breanna and her designs have appeared in media outlets around the world, and she has been featured in publications such as Harper's Bazaar, Wall Street Journal, and Women's Wear Daily.

Breanna says, "Mill Street Loft (The Art Effect) was pivotal in launching the trajectory of my studies and career. Their classes trained me to approach all things in life with creativity; not just in my career. I am very excited to be involved in this year's event!"

Amina Kearney is a community collaborator and filmmaker, and a 2009 alumna of The Art Effect (formerly Spark Media Project). Amina currently teaches media production to local youth at The Art Effect. A SUNY Purchase graduate holding degrees in both Media Arts and Screenwriting, Amina is very active in our community, serving on Arts Mid-Hudson's Folk Arts Advisory Board and facilitating various filmmaking groups in the Hudson Valley. She also serves as outreach coordinator at Masjid al-Mutakabbir in Poughkeepsie, and is passionate about poverty alleviation, childhood education, animals, social injustice, and protecting the arts.

"We are thrilled to recognize Michael J. Quinn and Niki Pagones Quinn, Breanna Lee Nussbickel, and Amina Kearney," states Nicole Fenichel-Hewitt, The Art Effect Executive Director. "Their personal efforts are helping to build a thriving and creative community in the Hudson Valley that supports youth personal growth and self-expression. We especially appreciate their support in building momentum around The Art Effect's mission in our inaugural year."

Art After Dark is a night of immersive arts experiences featuring youth artists, collaborative filmmaking, interactive installations, and live music as well as cocktails, elegant hors d'oeuvres and small plates, and desserts. Tickets are \$125 per person. Please RSVP by Friday, September 14, 2018. For tickets, visit feelthearteffect.org/artafterdark.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. Please contact Nicole Baker at nicolebaker@feelthearteffect.org and visit feelthearteffect.org/sponsorship for more details.

About The Art Effect: The Art Effect, formerly Mill Street Loft + Spark Media Project, empowers youth in the Hudson Valley through the arts and media. Our programming sequence supports the personal and professional development of youth and provides them with the tools and support necessary to explore the arts, gain meaningful experiences, and eventually excel in their chosen tracks. It is our commitment to support personal growth, self-expression, cooperation, and enhanced human services to build the creative community of the Hudson Valley.