



## **Julia Louis-Dreyfus announces \$1 million gift from The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation to Harlem Children's Zone®**

For immediate release

NEW YORK -- April 18, 2019 – On behalf of The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation (WLDFoundation), award-winning actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus announced last night a \$1 million gift to the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), the first donation from the initial sales of art from the collection of her late father, William Louis-Dreyfus.

At HCZ's "Friend of the Children Award" dinner, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and her father's legacy were honored for their keen interest in changing the odds for underserved children and families in Harlem.

"When William discovered HCZ, it was clear it was a perfect match and Julia has brought her own magic and commitment to carrying on his legacy," said Anne Williams-Isom, Chief Executive Officer of the Harlem Children's Zone. "It seems so right that his singular combination of generosity and genius would lead to a new chapter for his collection of works by artists he believed in – helping to nurture the growth of under-served children in whom he also saw potential."

William established the WLDFoundation as an educational resource to hold, exhibit and ultimately sell the artwork that he had collected over more than 50 years. It owns nearly four thousand works of art housed in a museum-quality space in Mount Kisco, New York. Much of the proceeds of the Foundation's sales are designated for the Harlem Children's Zone. In January 2019, the Foundation participated in Christie's Outsider and Vernacular Art Auction, which was a great success and enabled the gift announced last night. In the years ahead, the WLDFoundation plans to build on this outstanding precedent with sales across diverse channels in the marketplace.

"My father was never shy about what he believed in and, more than anything, he believed in art and justice," said Julia Louis-Dreyfus. "That he found a way to marry those two beliefs was a sweet miracle for him."

Driven by his own eye and great passion for the art he acquired, William Louis-Dreyfus assembled a unique collection that includes work by well-known artists such as Jean Dubuffet, Red Grooms and Raymond Mason, as well as pieces by contemporary artists such as Graham Nickson, Catherine Murphy and John Newman. As a collector, Louis-Dreyfus was particularly fascinated by self-taught artists and focused his attention on James Castle, Nellie Mae Rowe, Thornton Dial, Bill Traylor and Purvis Young. Works from the collection have been exhibited at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Gallery of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

“William had a very specific long-term plan in mind when he established the Foundation,” said Jeffrey Gilman, President of The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation. “His plan was to sell the collection in a measured way over time, fully expecting that it would appreciate as the artists in the collection became better known, thereby resulting in the largest possible gift to HCZ. We began that effort this year with the January auction at Christie’s and we look forward to continuing to execute the plan in the coming years.”

Over the past six years, hundreds of HCZ students have visited the Foundation in Mount Kisco, at times getting personal tours of the artwork from William and sometimes hearing from the artists themselves. In addition to learning about art history, the students often created their own art inspired by works they saw at the gallery.

### **About Harlem Children’s Zone**

Harlem Children’s Zone is a pioneering non-profit that works with children from cradle to college to career and is breaking the cycle of generational poverty for more than 28,000 children and adults in Harlem. HCZ provides children with the academic, personal and career support they need. Its innovative work has achieved unprecedented results and, as a model for the nation, it is sharing its accumulated knowledge with communities around the country – transforming the way poverty is being fought in America. For more information, please visit [www.hcz.org](http://www.hcz.org)

### **About William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation**

The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been established as an educational resource to promote public awareness of the works of self-taught, contemporary and emerging artists. The Foundation also intends to benefit other specific educational purposes when it sells its artwork, in particular the educational programs of the Harlem Children’s Zone. The Foundation’s art collection is housed in museum quality space in Mount Kisco, New York, and is open to the public by appointment. For more information, please visit the Foundation’s website at: [wldfoundation.org](http://wldfoundation.org).

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