Ordway Center for the Performing Arts is seeking nominations for the 2009 Sally Ordway Irvine Awards. These prestigious awards, now in their 17th year, provide an opportunity to recognize and honor extraordinary achievements in the visual and performing arts throughout Minnesota.

“Minnesota’s arts scene is so rich and vibrant that it’s difficult to keep up with all the great work being done around the state,” said Patricia A. Mitchell, Ordway president and CEO. “We therefore rely on colleagues, arts enthusiasts and citizens to nominate individuals and organizations who have made a significant impact on their community or on their artistic discipline. We want to cast the net as broadly as possible by seeking nominations from all corners of the state.”

Each year, one person or organization receives an award in each of four categories: Vision, Initiative, Commitment and Education. Last year’s winners were Mixed Blood Theatre (Vision), Bruce Coppock (Initiative), Wendy Lehr (Commitment) and St. Francis Music Center (Education). Nominations for the 2009 awards are being accepted through October 31, 2009. Individuals and organizations from any artistic or cultural field are eligible, as long as their work took place in Minnesota. Nominees may be artists, professional administrators, volunteers or philanthropists.

After all entries have been received, a selection committee reviews the nominations and selects the four award winners, who will be honored at the Sally Awards ceremony at the Ordway in March, 2010.

Nomination forms and additional information are available online at www.ordway.org/sallyawards