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**DURHAM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### LOCAL BUSINESSES STEP UP IN SUPPORT OF DPAC



#### Durham, NC –

Three local companies and two significant foundations are the latest to give to the Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) Campaign. Merck & Company, Burt's Bees, and IBM are joined by the F.M. Kirby Foundation and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation in providing over \$80,000 in contributions and support for Durham's number one destination attraction.

Merck & Co. Inc. is sponsoring the Technical Director's Office, Burt's Bees is supporting the Grand Tier West Concessions, and the F.M. Kirby Foundation is naming the General Manager's Office. The Biddle Foundation is providing funds for DPAC operations, while IBM has donated a computer server to improve DPAC's technological capabilities.

The DPAC continues to surpass projections and for the first quarter of this year was ranked the #2 performing arts venue in the nation based on ticket sales.

Merck & Co. Inc., a global health care leader, is nearing completion on a 700,000-square-foot facility in Durham that will be dedicated to manufacturing live virus vaccines. Construction of the Maurice R. Hilleman Center for Vaccine Manufacturing began in 2004, with several expansions announced since the project began. It is anticipated that the finished facility will be one of the largest live virus vaccine manufacturing facilities in the world.

"We aspire to have a positive impact on the communities in which we operate by supporting a wide range of local art and cultural initiatives", said John Wagner, Plant Manager, "Durham is a great place to live and our employees enjoy the dining and entertainment options that continue to expand. We are pleased to make a contribution to support this outstanding facility."

Burt's Bees, a leading natural health and beauty care company, has called the Triangle home for nearly 20 years, but moved to Downtown Durham's American Tobacco Campus in 2009.

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“It’s exciting to witness and be part of the growing vibrancy in downtown Durham, “ said Burt’s Bees General Manager Nick Vlahos. “We are proud to have DPAC as a close neighbor and fully support their good efforts to bring top-notch arts and entertainment to the Durham community.”

IBM provided a valuable high-rack server to the DPAC to bolster the DPAC’s operational capabilities. IBM Manager of Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs Tina Wilson said, “IBM is pleased to be able to both enhance the technology at the DPAC with IBM products, but also have an impact in the arts community as well.”

The F.M. Kirby Foundation, based in Morristown, New Jersey, has a strong history of supporting the Durham community, according to President S. Dillard Kirby. “We have been long-time supporters of the Carolina Theater,” said Kirby, “So we wanted to make sure the DPAC was a complement, and not a detriment, to that venue. Our review showed both facilities doing well and the unique combination of the two is helping to grow the performing arts community.”

The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation is known throughout the greater Durham community for its support of arts, education, and medicine. The Foundation’s leader, Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, is well known for her broad support of the arts and the DPAC fits comfortably as a leading performing arts center.

“The DPAC is one of Durham’s greatest assets,” extolled Doug Zinn, Executive Director of the Biddle Foundation. “This venue plays a vital role in the revitalization of the city and is making a great name for Durham, literally worldwide!”

Merck, Burt’s Bees, IBM, and the F.M. Kirby and Biddle Foundations, join naming rights donors such as Skanska and KeySource Bank, together with major benefactors Capitol Broadcasting Company, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, and Mildred & Dillard Teer, in providing significant financial support for the DPAC. “It is very rewarding to have the companies and foundations of this stature behind our premier arts venue,” said Mayor Bill Bell. “It is a clear indicator of our achievements to date and validation of our vision for the future.”

**ABOUT THE DPAC CAMPAIGN:** The DPAC Campaign is a major funding campaign focused on providing private resources to help sustain the DPAC long-term. Naming opportunities in the Campaign are still available and range in value from \$1,000 for a seat to \$200,000 for the President’s Lounge. Contributions are tax deductible. For information on naming rights or funding opportunities at the DPAC, please contact Sports & Properties representatives Hatcher Kincheloe (919-234-4184, [hkincheloe@sportsproperties.com](mailto:hkincheloe@sportsproperties.com)) or Hill Carrow (919-678-1651, [hcarrow@sportsproperties.com](mailto:hcarrow@sportsproperties.com)).

**ABOUT MERCK:** Today’s Merck is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck is known as MSD outside the United States and Canada. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and consumer care and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. For more information, visit [www.merck.com](http://www.merck.com).

**ABOUT BURT’S BEES:** Burt’s Bees has been offering distinctive earth-friendly, natural personal care products for 25 years. From a beekeeper’s backyard in Maine to the leading edge of natural, Burt’s Bees knows natural body care solutions from head-to-toe. The company creates products for total skin health that keep The Great Good top of mind. Burt’s Bees has approximately 400 employees with products available in the United States and nearly 20 markets worldwide as well as on its website [www.burtsbees.com](http://www.burtsbees.com).

ABOUT IBM: IBM is one of the world's largest technology and consulting firms. For 100 years, IBM has been at the forefront of technological advancement on a global scale. Since 1960, IBM has been one of the largest employers in the Triangle region and currently employs more than 10,000 people at its RTP headquarters. For more information about IBM, visit [www.ibm.com](http://www.ibm.com)

ABOUT THE F.M. KIRBY FOUNDATION: History demonstrates time and time again that when people unite in a charitable cause, which is right and good, the impossible becomes possible. America's proliferation of nonprofit organizations and vast philanthropic resources is unparalleled within the global community. At the F.M. Kirby Foundation, we believe that private philanthropy, at its best, if provided compassionately and prudently, encourages self-reliance and diminishes government's role. Dedicated grantors and grantees, working together, tend to ennoble and enrich our society. For more information on the F.M. Kirby Foundation, visit [www.foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/kirby/index.html](http://www.foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/kirby/index.html)

ABOUT THE MARY DUKE BIDDLE FOUNDATION: The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation was founded in 1956 to support the founder's interest in education, religion, music and the arts, and to provide aid to communities. For over 50 years, the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation has dedicated more than 40 million dollars in grants to Duke University, as well as various causes throughout North Carolina and New York. For more information on The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, please visit [www.mbdf.org](http://www.mbdf.org).

ABOUT THE DPAC: The Durham Performing Arts Center is a state-of-the-art performance hall located in Downtown Durham at the American Tobacco Campus. It has the largest stage and seating capacity of any theater in the Carolinas. The DPAC, which opened in the fall of 2008, has hosted numerous Broadway plays, musicians, comedians, and the American Dance Festival. The DPAC is owned by the City of Durham and is operated by a partnership of PFM and Nederlander. More information about the Durham Performing Arts Center can be found at [www.dpacnc.org](http://www.dpacnc.org).

FOR RELEASE AUGUST \_\_, 2011