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PRESS RELEASE

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Accomplishment - The Sum of Small Steps

GALVESTON, TX December 12, 2016 – Will this matter a year from now? Or a decade? Or a century? You betcha! Artist Boat continues to work toward conserving Galveston Island’s remaining open space for future generations.

With closing pen in hand, Artist Boat is pleased to announce that another 47 acres were purchased for inclusion in the Coastal Heritage Preserve. The partnerships to achieve this conservation purchase were extensive! The purchase price was funded by a \$1,051,000 grant to the Galveston Bay Estuary Program/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, administered by the Texas General Land Office, and via a third-party agreement between Artist Boat and the Galveston Bay Foundation. Administrative, due diligence, legal and transaction costs were funded by grants from Houston Endowment, Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Foundation, Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation, and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The 47-acre parcel is part of the former Marquette development. The property is immediately adjacent to the Coastal Heritage Preserve. The purchase will build on conserving wetlands and important habitat critical to water quality that will sustain the health and resiliency of Galveston Island.

The Coastal Heritage Preserve is one of the largest un-fragmented, undeveloped properties of its kind remaining on Galveston Island. It is located roughly midway along the length of this 32-mile barrier island. The Coastal Heritage Preserve is also a critical piece of the West Bay Corridor Initiative, a multi-agency program to protect and restore critical habitats around Galveston’s West Bay, a project of the Hurricane Ike Long Term Recovery Plan and identified in the West Galveston Island Greenprint for Growth.

This purchase will enhance Artist Boat’s existing learning and environmental education programs while concurrently protecting the Island’s disappearing open space.

The competition for funding is intense. Island property values are high. Nonetheless, Artist Boat continues to persevere in making critical, small but significant steps in accomplishing the goal of conserving Galveston’s last remaining open spaces.

For more information contact: Executive Director Karla Klay at (409)-770-0722

Artist Boat is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts.