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## **SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES RECEIVES MAJOR SUPPORT FROM M.J. MURDOCK CHARITABLE TRUST FOR “BRIDGE TO 30” CAPITAL PROJECT**

**Seattle, WA— May 4, 2017:** On the cusp of Seattle Arts & Lectures’ (SAL) 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust recently awarded SAL a generous grant of \$65,750 to make long-awaited critical updates to its technology infrastructure, paving the way for SAL’s continued growth and success in the decades to come.

SAL’s Bridge to 30 capacity-building project includes developing a new SAL website, implementing a new customer relationship management and ticketing system, and preserving and sharing SAL’s rich literary legacy by digitizing our archive of past lectures and creating an online platform to begin to make lectures available to the community.

“We are tremendously honored by the MJ Murdock Charitable Trusts’ investment. These important capital improvements will allow us to more effectively inspire and engage tens of thousands of children and adults in our region in the decade to come,” SAL Executive Director Ruth Dickey said. “We are hard at work now with our partners to complete the project, and can’t wait to show the community what this is making possible this fall as we celebrate our 30th anniversary.”

A pool of generous SAL individual donors and the Nesholm Family Foundation joined with the Trust to fully fund the “Bridge to 30” project. As a result of their investment, SAL patrons will be able to more easily access information about SAL’s programs and events, print their tickets at home, and listen to select digital archival audio recordings of some of the most important literary leaders of the past three decades, among many other benefits.

The **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust**, based in Vancouver, Washington, was created in 1975 by the will of the late Melvin J. Murdock, who was a co-founder of Tektronix, Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon. Its mission is to enrich the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest by providing grants to organizations that seek to strengthen the region’s educational, cultural, and spiritual base in creative and sustainable ways.

**About Seattle Arts & Lectures:** Founded in 1987, Seattle Arts & Lectures champions the literary arts by engaging and inspiring readers and writers of all generations in the Puget Sound

region. SAL's programs include the Literary Arts Series, Poetry Series, Women You Need to Know (WYNK), Sherman Alexie Loves, SAL Presents, Hinge, Local Voices, Summer Book Bingo, the Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) program, and Writers in the Schools (WITS), an award-winning reading and writing program that places professional writers in public elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as at Seattle Children's Hospital. Last year SAL served more than 29,000 children, youth and adults. For more information about SAL, visit [lectures.org](http://lectures.org).

Photos available upon request.

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