The Fourth Annual Imagination & Place Environmental Award was presented during a ceremony on Earth Day, Tuesday April 22, at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire. The 2008 award honored volunteers who demonstrate dedication, spirit and care for their local community through their environmental work. Friends of Hidden Valley, Cans for the Community, Friends of the Kaw, Schwegler Elementary School PTA, and Marie Stockett of Lawrence were the 2008 winners of the Imagination & Place Environmental Award. Each of the five winners received a framed watercolor award by Lawrence artist Lisa Grossman.

A local foods reception was provided by the Community Mercantile.

The I&P Environmental Award is designed to recognize Douglas County community members who have made a demonstrable and positive impact on the local, regional, and/or global environment. The awards honor one of the following categories (in a four-year cycle): businesses, educators, artists and volunteers.

The award was established by the Committee on Imagination & Place of the Lawrence Arts Center in partnership with the City of Lawrence Waste Reduction & Recycling Division.

Specially commissioned artworks constitute the awards themselves. The inspiration for the award comes from the idea of giving something beautiful for something beautifully done.

Past Imagination & Place Environmental Award winners are: 2007, artist Laura Ramberg and writer Ken Lassman; 2006, educator Kelly Kindscher, with runners-up Nancy O'Connor, David Owen, Rex Powell, and Marty Birrell; and 2005 business Community Mercantile, with runners-up Free State Brewing Company and Z's Divine Espresso.



More photos at <u>www.imaginationandplace.org</u> under I&P Photo Gallery.