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## **The stars align for Kaitz Foundation celebration “Diversity in the Digital Age”**

### **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Dinner features Sean Combs, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and “Insecure” co-star Yvonne Orji**

*Annual event raises funds to support internet and television industry diversity groups*

(NEW YORK) – The Walter Kaitz Foundation’s 34th Annual Fundraising Dinner will bring together a host of stars to New York’s Marriott Marquis in celebration of diversity and inclusion in the internet and television industry. Among the bold face names participating in this year’s event will be comedian **Nick Guerra, of Fuse Media**; music industry impresario and businessman **Sean ‘P. Diddy’ Combs**; **Yvonne Orji**, co-star on the hit series “Insecure”; and a special performance by New Orleans band, **Tank & The Bangas**.

This year’s event, honoring **HBO** and **Girls Who Code (GWC)**, raises funds to support the programs and initiatives of three key industry organizations: The **Emma L. Bowen Foundation**, the **National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC)**, and **Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT)**. **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** professor of African American Studies at Harvard University will present HBO’s award to President and CEO, Richard Plepler. Each year the dinner raises more than \$1.6 million.

HBO will be honored as a 2017 **Diversity Champion**, an award given to organizations that act as catalysts for diversity throughout the cable industry. Diversity Champions motivate the industry to embrace and value diversity by serving as role models, inspiring and encouraging excellence, removing barriers that hinder progress, and empowering others with opportunities.

HBO is being recognized for its diverse programming, workforce diversity, supplier diversity and corporate philanthropy, as well as its continuing support for the industry organizations that the Kaitz Foundation funds.

Girls Who Code will be honored as the **Diversity Advocate** during the 2017 Dinner, an award presented to an individual or organization outside of the cable industry that has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to diversity. The award recognizes visionary leadership that fosters a more embracing and inclusive environment. GWC is dedicated to closing the gender gap in technology by providing girls with the computing skills needed to pursue 21<sup>st</sup> century opportunities. The organization has over 1000 Girls Who Code clubs across America and runs

summer and after school programs which teach computing and programming skills to girls from the sixth to the twelfth grades.

“The Kaitz Dinner caps off Diversity Week in New York and we are extremely excited to recognize the work our honorees are doing,” says David Porter, executive director of the Walter Kaitz Foundation. “We’re pleased to welcome our special guests, but even more excited about using the funds we raise to expand our support of our partner organizations.

**Pat Esser**, president, Cox Communications, and **Ken Lowe**, chairman, president & CEO, Scripps Networks Interactive, will serve as dinner co-chairs. Joining them on the dinner committee are **Rocco Commisso**, chairman and CEO, Mediacom Communications Corp.; **Nancy Dubuc**, president & CEO, A&E Networks; **John Evans**, chairman & CEO, Evans Telecommunications Company; **Peter Rice**, chairman & CEO, Fox Networks Group; **Richard Sjoberg**, president & CEO, Sjoberg’s, Inc.; **Robert Stanzione**, executive chairman, ARRIS; and **David Zaslav**, president & CEO, Discovery Communications.

Tickets for the dinner are still available. For information about the dinner, contact the Walter Kaitz Foundation, at (202) 222-2490 or email Michelle Ray, Deputy Executive Director for the Walter Kaitz Foundation, at [mray@walterkaitz.org](mailto:mray@walterkaitz.org). More information about the dinner can also be found at <http://www.walterkaitz.org>.

#### About the Walter Kaitz Foundation

The Walter Kaitz Foundation stands at the center of the cable industry’s long-standing commitment to diversity as it seeks to advance the contributions of women and multi-ethnic professionals in cable. Through the funds we raise, the organizations we support, and the programs we produce, the Walter Kaitz Foundation serves as a catalyst for increasing diversity in cable in three areas – its workforce, its supplier base and its programming.

#### About HBO

Home Box Office, Inc., the premium television programming subsidiary of Time Warner Inc., is the world’s most successful pay TV service, providing the two television services – HBO® and Cinemax® – to approximately 134 million subscribers worldwide.

#### About Girls Who Code

Girls Who Code is a national non-profit organization working to close the gender gap in technology. Through its Summer Immersion Program and Clubs, Girls Who Code is leading the movement to inspire, educate, and equip young women with the computing skills to pursue 21st century opportunities. By the end of year, Girls Who Code will have reached 40,000 girls in every US state. Additional information is available at [www.girlswhocode.com](http://www.girlswhocode.com).

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