

**For immediate release**

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**National Blues Act Headlines Downtown Ball & Gala  
At the Peabody Opera House  
Tickets Now on Sale**

St. Louis, MO (September 6, 2011) – **Kim Wilson** (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) and **The Blues All-Stars featuring Anson Funderburgh** (Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets) will be the national headliners at the 2011 **Downtown Ball & Gala**, a charitable fundraising event presented annually by the Downtown St. Louis Foundation, in cooperation with The Partnership for Downtown St. Louis.

The Downtown Ball will be the first charity fundraising event to be held in the newly restored Peabody Opera House and will celebrate Downtown with an evening of networking, delectable delights, music and entertainment on Friday, October 14 at 7 pm. A silent and live auction will highlight Downtown experiences, while raising funds for an important charitable cause. Then, the Blues All-Stars will take the stage at the end of the evening.

Net proceeds for this year's Downtown Ball will benefit the **National Blues Museum**, a proposed world-class cultural attraction that will explore and preserve the historic significance of the Blues as the foundation of American music. To be located in the emerging Mercantile Exchange (MX) District in downtown St. Louis, the National Blues Museum will celebrate the genre's myriad styles and pay tribute to the musicians who created, sustain and continue to advance the art form. The 23,000-square foot facility will feature technology and artifact-driven exhibits, a theater and special event space. Targeted to open in 2013, the National Blues Museum will be located at the corner of 6th Street and Washington Avenue in the Laurel building, part of the MX District.

A limited number of tickets are now available for The Downtown Ball via [www.downtownstl.org/downtownball](http://www.downtownstl.org/downtownball). Or, for additional questions, contact Shuntaé Shields Ryan at 314.436.6500 ext. 240.

**Calendar Format:**

Downtown Ball & Gala benefitting the National Blues Museum

Peabody Opera House

Friday, October 14, 7 pm

A limited amount of tickets available via

[www.downtownstl.org/downtownball](http://www.downtownstl.org/downtownball) or [www.downtownballstl.org](http://www.downtownballstl.org)

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