

National Endowment for the Arts
&
National Council on the Arts





2001 National Medal of Arts recipient Judith Jamison, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation (which also received a National Medal of Arts in 2001), surrounded by dance students who performed at the Medals ceremony.

Photo by Neshan Naltchayan

WHAT IS *the* NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS?

The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government. These individuals, through their creativity, inspiration, and hard work, have significantly enriched the cultural life of our nation.

When the award program began in 1984, it was envisioned that the National Medal of Arts would honor the extraordinary accomplishments of those engaged in the creation and production of the arts in the United States. Looking at the list of those honored over more than 20 years, one can see the breadth of artistic endeavors in this country. From writers such as Saul Bellow, Richard Wilbur, and Ralph Ellison to visual artists such as Georgia O’Keeffe, Romare Bearden, and Roy Lichtenstein to musicians Dave Brubeck, Aaron Copland, and Ray Charles, the map of American artistic achievement is clearly drawn.

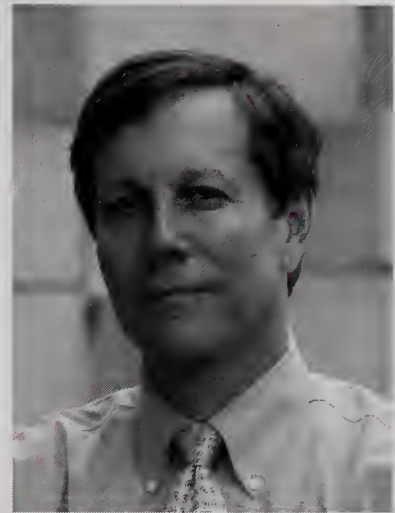


Photo by Vance Jacobs

We at the Arts Endowment strive to support artistic excellence in the United States, and the National Medal of Arts recipients demonstrate that the arts are continuing to thrive. Dynamic, diverse, and original, the arts are an essential part of our American identity and civilization. As President Reagan stated at the 1987 ceremony, “The arts and humanities teach us who we are and what we can be. They lie at the very core of the culture of which we are a part, and they provide the foundation from which we may reach out to other cultures so that the great heritage that is ours may be enriched by—as well as itself enrich—other enduring traditions.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Gioia".

Dana Gioia

Chairman

National Endowment for the Arts

National Council on the Arts



BRIEF HISTORY *of* THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

In 1983, prior to the official establishment of the National Medal of Arts, President Ronald Reagan presented a medal to the following artists and patrons at a White House luncheon arranged by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities: (artists) Pinchas Zukerman, Frederica Von Stade, Czeslaw Milosz, Frank Stella, Philip Johnson, and Luis Valdez; (patrons) The Texaco Philanthropic Foundation, James Michener (considered a patron for the award), Philip Morris, Inc., The Cleveland Foundation, Elma Lewis, and The Dayton Hudson Foundation. This was the beginning step in creating a Presidential award for those who significantly contributed to the cultural life of our nation.

On May 31, 1984, President Reagan signed legislation creating the National Medal of Arts, authorizing the President to award up to 12 medals a year to "individuals or groups who in the President's judgment are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States."

The National Council on the Arts, the advisory board for the National Endowment for the Arts, is responsible for recommending candidates for the medal to the President. Unlike other arts awards, the National Medal of Arts is not limited to a single field or area of artistic endeavor. It is designed to honor exemplary individuals and organizations that have encouraged the arts in America and offered inspiration to others through their distinguished achievement, support, or patronage.

The National Medal of Arts was designed by internationally renowned sculptor Robert Graham, whose design was chosen by a special committee of the National Council on the Arts from among 31 designs submitted in a national competition. Mr. Graham is known for creating the Gateway for the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles, California.

For more than 20 years, the recipients of the National Medal of Arts have touched every aspect of artistic life in the United States, from the fine arts to popular culture. The award has honored not only those whose vision and creativity provided the American public with their art work, but also those whose support of the arts has been crucial to its development.

President Ronald Reagan at the 1987 National Medal of Arts reception with (clockwise from President's left) William Schuman, Isamu Noguchi, Alwin Nikolais, Howard Nemerov, and Ella Fitzgerald.

White House photo by Pete Souza



HOW TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS *for* THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

Annually, the National Endowment for the Arts initiates the selection process for the National Medal of Arts by soliciting nominations from the public. The National Council on the Arts reviews the nominations and draws up a list of recommendations that it submits to the President. Typically, the announcement of the year's awardees is made by the White House in the fall.

The period of nomination for the National Medal of Arts is January through March 15. To submit a nomination, please complete a nomination form, which includes a one-page biography of the nominee's accomplishments. Because of difficulties with the receipt of mail, nominations are only accepted online at the Arts Endowment's Web site: www.arts.gov. More information on the nomination process can be found on the Web site as well.



Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is eligible to receive the National Medal of Arts?

Nominees must be living U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have filed for naturalization and who are eligible to become U.S. citizens. Nominated organizations must be established or incorporated in the United States.

Can I submit more than one nomination?

Yes, but you must complete separate nomination forms for each nominee.

Where do I find detailed information to submit about my nominee?

If you do not personally know the nominee (or wish to keep your nomination a surprise), you may find information at your local library in the reference section. *Who's Who in America* and other biographic reference books are often good sources of information. Internet searches may also turn up good material. Ask your librarian for other suggestions. Check the list of previous awardees to ensure that your nomination has not already received a National Medal of Arts.

What information must I submit for my nomination?

Career highlights, not comprehensive biographies, are requested. Provide the source of the information if possible. This award is bestowed only to U.S. citizens who have made exceptional contributions to the arts so the most competitive nominees will be familiar to the reviewers. The purpose of your nomination is to present reasons why your nominee is deserving of this high honor.

The information requested on the "For All Nominations" section is the most important; any critical biographical material must be provided here. Brochures, books, or music samples will not be accepted.

NEA Chairman Gioia (back center) with 2005 National Medal of Arts recipients: (clockwise from left back) Wynton Marsalis, Paquito D'Rivera, Robert Duvall, Louis Auchincloss, Derek Gillman for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, James DePreist, Leonard Garment, Tina Ramirez, and Ollie Johnston.

Photo by Christie Bow

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The National Council on the Arts (NCA) advises the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, who also chairs the Council, on agency policies and programs. It reviews and makes recommendations to the Chairman on applications for grants, funding guidelines, and leadership initiatives.

The NCA was established by the National Arts and Cultural Development Act of 1964, a full year before the federal agency was created by Congressional legislation. The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 established the National Endowment for the Arts and provided that private citizens serve as advisors to the NEA Chairman as members of the National Council on the Arts. Members are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate for six-year terms.

Since 1997, the Council has consisted of 14 private citizens and six members of Congress, who serve in an ex officio, non-voting capacity for two-year terms.

NCA members as of January 2007:

Dana Gioia
Chairman

James K. Ballinger
Museum Director
Phoenix, AZ

Ben Donenberg
Theater Producer/Arts
Educator
Los Angeles, CA

Makoto Fujimura
Visual Artist
New York, NY

David H. Gelernter
Author/Critic/Educator
Woodbridge, CT

Chico Hamilton
NEA Jazz Master
Percussionist
New York, NY

Mark Hofflund
Theater Administrator
Boise, ID

Joan Israelite
Local Arts Agency
Executive
Lee's Summit, MO

Charlotte Power Kessler
Arts Patron
New Albany, OH

Bret Lott
Author
Baton Rouge, LA

Jerry Pinkney
Artist/Illustrator
Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Frank Price
Film Industry Executive
New York, NY

Gerard Schwarz
Symphony Orchestra
Conductor
Seattle, WA

Terry Teachout
Critic/Author
New York, NY

Dr. Karen Lias Wolff
Music Educator
Ann Arbor, MI

Ex Officio Members
United States Congress
The appointment of the six
ex officio Congressional
members is pending until
the 110th Congress
convenes in 2007.

National Medal of Arts Recipients **1985-2006**

2006

William Bolcom, composer

Cyd Charisse, dancer

Roy R. DeCarava, photographer

Interlochen Center for the Arts,
school of fine arts

Erich Kunzel, conductor

Preservation Hall Jazz Band, jazz
ensemble

Gregory Rabassa, literary translator

Viktor Schreckengost, industrial designer,
sculptor

Dr. Ralph Stanley, bluegrass musician

Wilhelmina Holladay, arts patron

2005

Louis Auchincloss, author

James DePreist, conductor

Paquito D'Rivera, jazz musician,
composer, writer

Robert Duvall, actor

Ollie Johnston, film animator and artist

Wynton Marsalis, trumpeter, composer,
Jazz at Lincoln Center artistic director

Dolly Parton, singer, songwriter

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts,
school of fine arts, museum

Tina Ramirez, choreographer,
Ballet Hispanico artistic director

Leonard Garment, arts patron
and advocate

*President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush with
2006 Medalist Gregory Rabassa in the Oval Office.*

White House photo by Paul Morse



2004

Ray Bradbury, author
Carlisle Floyd, opera composer
Frederick Hart, sculptor
Anthony Hecht, poet
John Ruthven, wildlife artist
Vincent Scully, architectural historian
and educator
Twyla Tharp, contemporary dance
choreographer
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,
philanthropic foundation

2003

Austin City Limits, PBS television
program
Beverly Cleary, writer
Rafe Esquith, arts educator
Suzanne Farrell, dancer, choreographer,
company director, educator
Buddy Guy, blues musician
Ron Howard, actor, director, writer,
producer
Mormon Tabernacle Choir, choral group
Leonard Slatkin, symphony orchestra
conductor
George Strait, country singer, songwriter
Tommy Tune, dancer, actor,
choreographer, director

2002

Florence Knoll Bassett, architect
Trisha Brown, artistic director,
choreographer, dancer
Philippe de Montebello, museum
director
Uta Hagen, actress, drama teacher
Lawrence Halprin, architect
Al Hirschfeld, artist, illustrator
George Jones, country music composer,
performer
Ming Cho Lee, theater designer
William "Smokey" Robinson, songwriter,
musician

2001

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, modern
dance company and school
Rudolfo Anaya, writer
Johnny Cash, singer, songwriter
Kirk Douglas, actor, producer
Helen Frankenthaler, painter
Judith Jamison, artistic director,
choreographer, dancer
Yo-Yo Ma, cellist
Mike Nichols, director, producer

2000

Maya Angelou, poet, writer
Eddy Arnold, country singer
Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer, director
Benny Carter, jazz musician
Chuck Close, painter
Horton Foote, playwright, screenwriter
National Public Radio, Cultural
Programming Division, broadcaster
Claes Oldenburg, sculptor
Itzhak Perlman, violinist
Harold Prince, theater director, producer
Barbra Streisand, entertainer, filmmaker
Lewis Manilow, arts patron

1999

Aretha Franklin, singer
Michael Graves, architect, designer
Odetta, singer, music historian
The Juilliard School, performing
arts school
Norman Lear, producer, writer,
director, advocate
Rosetta LeNoire, actress, producer
Harvey Lichtenstein, arts administrator
Lydia Mendoza, singer
George Segal, sculptor
Maria Tallchief, ballerina
Irene Diamond, arts patron

*President William
J. Clinton and First
Lady Hillary Rodham
Clinton with 1996
Medalist Edward Albee.*

White House photo by
Sharon Farmer



1998

Jacques d'Amboise, dancer, choreographer,
educator

Antoine "Fats" Domino, rock 'n' roll
pianist, singer

Ramblin' Jack Elliott, folk singer,
songwriter

Frank Gehry, architect

Barbara Handman, arts advocate

Agnes Martin, visual artist

Gregory Peck, actor, producer

Roberta Peters, opera singer

Philip Roth, writer

Steppenwolf Theatre Company,
arts organization

Gwen Verdon, actress, dancer

Sara Lee Corporation, corporate
arts patron

1997

Louise Bourgeois, sculptor

Betty Carter, jazz vocalist

Daniel Urban Kiley, landscape architect

Angela Lansbury, actor

James Levine, opera conductor, pianist

Tito Puente, Latin percussionist, musician

Jason Robards, actor

Edward Villella, dancer, choreographer

Doc Watson, bluegrass guitarist, vocalist

MacDowell Colony, artist colony

Agnes Gund, arts patron

1996

Edward Albee, playwright

Sarah Caldwell, opera conductor

Harry Callahan, photographer

Zelda Fichandler, theater director, founder

Eduardo "Lalo" Guerrero, composer,
musician

Lionel Hampton, musician, bandleader

Bella Lewitzky, dancer, choreographer,
teacher

Robert Redford, actor, director, producer

Maurice Sendak, writer, illustrator,
designer

Stephen Sondheim, composer, lyricist

Boys Choir of Harlem, performing arts
youth group

Vera List, arts patron

1995

Licia Albanese, opera singer
Gwendolyn Brooks, poet
Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, actors
David Diamond, composer
James Ingo Freed, architect
Bob Hope, entertainer
Roy Lichtenstein, painter, sculptor
Arthur Mitchell, dancer, choreographer
William S. Monroe, bluegrass musician
Urban Gateways, arts education organization
B. Gerald and Iris Cantor, arts patrons

1994

Harry Belafonte, singer, actor
Dave Brubeck, pianist, bandleader, composer
Celia Cruz, singer
Dorothy DeLay, violin teacher
Julie Harris, actress
Erick Hawkins, dance choreographer
Gene Kelly, dancer, singer, actor
Pete Seeger, composer, lyricist, vocalist, banjo player
Wayne Thiebaud, artist, teacher
Richard Wilbur, poet, teacher, critic, literary translator
Young Audiences, arts presenter
Catherine Filene Shouse, arts patron

1993

Cabell "Cab" Calloway, singer, bandleader
Ray Charles, singer, musician
Bess Lomax Hawes, folklorist
Stanley Kunitz, poet, educator
Robert Merrill, baritone
Arthur Miller, playwright
Robert Rauschenberg, artist
Lloyd Richards, theatrical director
William Styron, writer

Paul Taylor, dancer, choreographer
Billy Wilder, movie director, writer, producer
Walter and Leonore Annenberg, arts patrons

1992

Marilyn Horne, opera singer
James Earl Jones, actor
Allan Houser, sculptor
Minnie Pearl, Grand Ole Opry performer
Robert Saudek, television producer, Museum of Broadcasting founding director
Earl Scruggs, banjo player
Robert Shaw, orchestra conductor, choral director
Billy Taylor, jazz pianist
Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, architects
Robert Wise, film producer, director
AT&T, corporate arts patron
Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, foundation arts patron

1991

Maurice Abravanel, music director, conductor
Roy Acuff, country singer, bandleader
Pietro Belluschi, architect
J. Carter Brown, museum director
Charles "Honi" Coles, tap dancer
John O. Crosby, opera director, conductor, administrator
Richard Diebenkorn, painter
Kitty Carlisle Hart, actress, singer, arts administrator, dancer
Pearl Primus, choreographer, anthropologist
Isaac Stern, violinist
R. Philip Hanes, Jr., arts patron
Texaco Inc., corporate arts patron

1990

George Francis Abbott, actor, playwright, producer, director

Hume Cronyn, actor, director

Jessica Tandy, actress

Merce Cunningham, choreographer, dance company director

Jasper Johns, painter, sculptor

Jacob Lawrence, painter

Riley "B.B." King, blues musician, singer

Ian McHarg, landscape architect

Beverly Sills, opera singer, director

David Lloyd Kreeger, arts patron

Harris & Carroll Sterling Masterson, arts patrons

Southeastern Bell Corporation, corporate arts patron

1989

Leopold Adler, preservationist, civic leader

Katherine Dunham, dancer, choreographer

Alfred Eisenstaedt, photographer

Martin Friedman, museum director

John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, jazz trumpeter

Walker Kirtland Hancock, sculptor

Vladimir Horowitz, pianist

Czelaw Milosz, writer

Robert Motherwell, painter

John Updike, writer

Dayton Hudson Corporation, corporate arts patron

Leigh Gerdine, arts patron

1988

Saul Bellow, writer

Sydney J. Freedberg, art historian, curator

Helen Hayes, actress

Gordon Parks, photographer, film director

I.M. Pei, architect

Jerome Robbins, dancer, choreographer

Rudolf Serkin, pianist

Roger L. Stevens, arts administrator

Virgil Thomson, composer, music critic

(Mrs. Vincent) Brooke Astor, arts patron

Francis Goelet, music patron

Obert C. Tanner, arts patron

1987

Romare Bearden, painter

Ella Fitzgerald, singer

Howard Nemerov, writer, scholar

Alwin Nikolais, dancer, choreographer

Isamu Noguchi, sculptor

William Schuman, composer

Robert Penn Warren, writer, poet

J. W. Fisher, arts patron

Dr. Armand Hammer, arts patron

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Lewis, arts patrons



President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush with 1990 Medalist Jacob Lawrence.

Photo courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library

1986

Marian Anderson, opera singer
Frank Capra, film director
Aaron Copland, composer
Willem de Kooning, painter
Agnes de Mille, choreographer
Eva Le Gallienne, actress, author
Alan Lomax, folklorist, scholar
Lewis Mumford, philosopher, literary critic
Eudora Welty, writer
Dominique de Menil, arts patron
Exxon Corporation, corporate arts patron
Seymour H. Knox, arts patron

1985

Elliott Carter, Jr., composer
Ralph Ellison, writer
Jose Ferrer, actor
Martha Graham, dancer, choreographer
Louise Nevelson, sculptress
Georgia O'Keeffe, painter
Leontyne Price, soprano
Dorothy Buffum Chandler, arts patron
Hallmark Cards, Inc., corporate arts patron
Lincoln Kirstein, arts patron
Paul Mellon, arts patron
Alice Tully, arts patron

NOTE: Recipients are listed alphabetically, artists first and then arts patrons.

President Ronald Reagan with 1987 Medalist Howard Nemerov.

White House photo by Mary Anne Fackelman-Miner





*National Medal of Arts recipient Yo-Yo Ma performing
with Dr. Condoleezza Rice at the 2001 Medals ceremony.*

Photo by Neshan Naltchayan

A Great Nation Deserves Great Art.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

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