

National Endowment for the Arts
&
National Council on the Arts





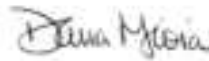
2001 National Medal of Arts recipient Judith Jamison, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation (which also received a National Medal of Arts in 2001), surrounded by dance students who performed at the Medals ceremony.
Photo by Neshan Naltchayan

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 the past 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.

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."



Dana Gioia
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
National Council on the Arts



Photo by Vance Jacobs

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.

*President Ronald Reagan with
1987 National Medal of Arts
recipient Ella Fitzgerald.*

White House photo by
Mary Anne Fackelman-Miner

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.



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

White House photo by Sharon Farmer

For 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.

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 April 11. 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 not ineligible 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 remind the reviewers that your nominee should be considered.

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.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Members as of January 2005:

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James K. Ballinger, Museum Director
Phoenix, AZ

Donald V. Cogman, Patron/Trustee
Scottsdale, AZ

Mary Costa, Opera Singer
Knoxville, TN

Katharine Cramer DeWitt,
Patron/Trustee
Cincinnati, OH

Makoto Fujimura, Visual Artist
New York, NY

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

Teresa Lozano Long, Patron/Trustee
Austin, TX

James McBride,
Author/Musician/Composer
Carversville, PA

Maribeth Walton McGinley,
Art Director/Designer
Glendale, CA

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

Deedie Potter Rose, Patron/Trustee
Dallas, TX

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

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Betty McCollum (D-MN)

Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA)

one seat vacant

National Medal of Arts Recipients
1985-2004

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

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 Vilella, 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



President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush with 2004 Medalist Ray Bradbury in the Oval Office.

White House photo by Susan Sterner

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

National Medal of Arts Recipients
1985-2004

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 Gardine, 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

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.

A Great Nation Deserves Great Art.



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

Photo by Neshan Naltchayan



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