

Senator Bob Bennett (Utah) enjoys blues artists Phil Wiggins (shown) and NEA National Heritage Fellow John Cephas at a special Capitol Hill tour for the National Council on the Arts in September 2004.

Photo by Christy Crytzer



National Council on the Arts

The National Council on the Arts advises the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts on agency policies and programs. It reviews and makes recommendations on applications for grants, funding guidelines, leadership initiatives, and nominations for the National Medal of Arts. The Council meets three times a year.

Fourteen voting members of the Council—all private citizens—are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms, and are selected for their distinguished service or achieved eminence in the arts. In 1997, Congress enacted legislation that required the appointment of six members of Congress, three from the House of Representatives and three from the Senate, to serve in an ex officio, non-voting capacity for two-year terms. Current Council members can be found on the NEA Web site at www.arts.gov.



Senator Lamar Alexander (Tennessee) with National Council on the Arts (NCA) member Mary Costa during a special Capitol Hill tour for the NCA in September 2004.

Photo by Christy Crytzer

The following Council members served in FY 2004:

Don V. Cogman

Patron/Trustee
Scottsdale, Arizona

Mary Costa

Opera Singer
Knoxville, Tennessee

Gordon Davidson*

Theater Center Director/Producer
Los Angeles, California

Katharine Cramer DeWitt

Patron/Trustee
Cincinnati, Ohio

Makoto Fujimura

Visual Artist
New York, New York

David Gelernter

Author/Critic/Educator
Woodbridge, Connecticut

Nathan Leventhal*

Patron/Trustee
New York, New York

Teresa Lozano Long

Patron/Trustee
Austin, Texas

James McBride

Author/Musician/Composer
Carversville, Pennsylvania

Maribeth Walton McGinley

Art Director/Designer
Glendale, California

Jerry Pinkney

Artist/Illustrator
Croton-on-Hudson, New York

Cleo Parker Robinson*

Dance Company
Director/Choreographer
Denver, Colorado

Deedie Potter Rose

Patron/Trustee
Dallas, Texas

Karen Lias Wolff

Music Educator
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ex officio members

Cass Ballenger

U.S. House of Representatives
(R-North Carolina)

Robert Bennett

U.S. Senate
(R-Utah)

Mike DeWine

U.S. Senate
(R-Ohio)

Betty McCollum

U.S. House of Representatives
(D-Minnesota)

Howard "Buck" McKeon

U.S. House of Representatives
(R-California)

Harry Reid

U.S. Senate
(D-Nevada)

* End of term in FY 2004