

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.



Photo by Vance Jacobs

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.

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 dark ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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](http://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

Czlaw 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  
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