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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

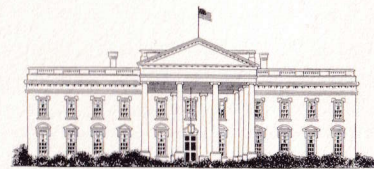
THE WHITE HOUSE

*in recognition of
the recipients of the 2013*

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

AND THE

NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL



Monday, July 28, 2014

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the Federal Government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with State arts agencies, local leaders, other Federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent Federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the Nation. The Endowment brings high-quality historical and cultural experiences to large and diverse audiences in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five territories.



THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) was founded in 1982 by Executive Order to advise the White House on cultural policy. The First Lady serves as Honorary Chair of the Committee, which is composed of both private and public members. Private members appointed by the President include prominent artists, philanthropists, entrepreneurs and State public officials who have demonstrated a commitment to the arts and humanities. Public members represent the heads of all the Federal agencies and institutions with a role in culture, including the heads of the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities, the Librarian of Congress, the Secretary of the Smithsonian, and United States Secretaries of Education, State and Treasury. The PCAH works on issues in education, cultural diplomacy, and the creative economy. Arts education has always been a focus of the Committee, and it has a history of issuing important policy reports and catalyzing Federal programs in arts education over the past 30 years.

PROGRAM

Remarks by

THE PRESIDENT

Presentation of Medals



Reception to follow

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS RECIPIENTS

JULIA ALVAREZ

for her extraordinary storytelling. In poetry and in prose, Ms. Alvarez explores themes of identity, family, and cultural divides. She illustrates the complexity of navigating two worlds and reveals the human capacity for strength in the face of oppression.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC

for innovative contributions to the performing and visual arts. For over 150 years, BAM has showcased the works of both established visionaries and emerging artists who take risks and push boundaries.

JOAN HARRIS

for supporting creative expression in Chicago and across our country. Her decades of leadership and generosity have enriched our cultural life and helped countless artists, dancers, singers, and musicians bring their talents to center stage.

BILL T. JONES

for his contributions as a dancer and choreographer. Renowned for provocative performances that blend an eclectic mix of modern and traditional dance, Mr. Jones creates works that challenge us to confront tough subjects and inspire us to greater heights.

JOHN KANDER

for his contributions as a composer. For more than half a century, Mr. Kander has enlivened Broadway, television, and film through songs that evoke romanticism and wonder and capture moral dilemmas that persist across generations.

JEFFREY KATZENBERG

for lighting up our screens and opening our hearts through animation and cinema. Mr. Katzenberg has embraced new technology to develop the art of storytelling and transform the way we experience film.

MAXINE HONG KINGSTON

for her contributions as a writer. Her novels and non-fiction have examined how the past influences our present, and her voice has strengthened our understanding of Asian American identity, helping shape our national conversation about culture, gender, and race.

ALBERT MAYSLES

for rethinking and remaking documentary film in America. One of the pioneers of direct cinema, he has offered authentic depictions of people and communities across the globe for nearly 60 years. By capturing raw emotions and representations, his work reflects the unfiltered truths of our shared humanity.

LINDA RONSTADT

for her one-of-a-kind voice and her decades of remarkable music. Drawing from a broad range of influences, Ms. Ronstadt defied expectations to conquer American radio waves and help pave the way for generations of women artists.

BILLIE TSIEN AND TOD WILLIAMS

for their contributions to architecture and arts education. Whether public or private, their deliberate and inspired designs have a profound effect on the lives of those who interact with them, and their teaching and spirit of service have inspired young people to pursue their passions.

JAMES TURRELL

for his groundbreaking visual art. Capturing the powers of light and space, Mr. Turrell builds experiences that force us to question reality, challenging our perceptions not only of art, but also of the world around us.

NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL RECIPIENTS

M. H. ABRAMS

for broadening the study of literature. As a scholar, writer, and critic, Dr. Abrams has expanded our perception of the Romantic tradition and explored the modern concept of artistic self-expression in Western culture, influencing and inspiring generations of students.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

for safeguarding the American story. For more than two centuries, the Society has amassed an unparalleled collection of historic American documents, served as a research center for scholars and students alike, and connected generations of Americans to their cultural heritage.

DAVID BRION DAVIS

for reshaping our understanding of history. Dr. Davis has shed light on the contradiction of a union founded on liberty yet existing half-slave and half-free, and his examinations of slavery and abolitionism drive us to keep making moral progress in our time.

WILLIAM THEODORE DE BARY

for enlightening our view of the world. As a scholar of East Asian studies, Dr. de Bary has fostered a global conversation based on the common values and experiences shared by all cultures, helping to bridge differences and build trust.

DARLENE CLARK HINE

for enriching our understanding of the African American experience. Through prolific scholarship and leadership, Dr. Hine has examined race, class, and gender, and has shown how the struggles and successes of African American women have shaped the Nation we are today.

JOHNPAUL JONES

for honoring nature and indigenous traditions in architecture. As the creative mind behind diverse and cherished institutions around the world, Mr. Jones has designed spaces worthy of the cultures they reflect, the communities they serve, and the environments they inhabit.

STANLEY NELSON

for documenting the stories of African Americans through film. By using his camera to tell both well-known and lesser-known narratives, Mr. Nelson has exposed injustices and highlighted triumphs, revealing new depths of our Nation's history.

DIANE REHM

for illuminating the people and stories behind the headlines. In probing interviews with everyone from pundits to poets to Presidents, Ms. Rehm's keen insights and boundless curiosity have deepened our understanding of our culture and ourselves.

ANNE FIROR SCOTT

for pioneering the study of women in the American South. Dr. Scott's exploration of the previously unexamined lives of Southern women of different races, classes, and political ideologies has established women's history as vital to our conception of Southern history.

KRISTA TIPPETT

for thoughtfully delving into the mysteries of human existence. On the air and in print, Ms. Tippett avoids easy answers, embracing complexity and inviting people of every background to join her conversation about faith, ethics, and moral wisdom.

