

40th  
ANNIVERSARY



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS

Established 1965

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# NEARTS

A GREAT NATION DESERVES GREAT ART

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# Honor Roll

## 2005 National Medal of Arts



NEA Chairman Dana Gioia (back center) with 2005 honorees. From l to r (back row) Wynton Marsalis, Paquito D'Rivera, Robert Duvall, Louis Auchincloss, Derek Gillman for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (front) Ollie Johnston, Tina Ramirez, Len Garment, James DePreist. (Dolly Parton not pictured.) Photo: Christie Bow.

**Eight master artists**, a civic-minded arts patron, and the nation's oldest museum and fine arts academy were honored with the National Medal of Arts this year. Mrs. Laura Bush joined President Bush as he presented nine of the recipients with their medals at a November 10 ceremony in the Oval Office. (Honoree Dolly Parton was unable to attend the ceremony and will receive her medal at a later date.)

"Each medal winner has helped define our era. Each has excelled and demonstrated originality, endurance, and self-discipline. And together, their creativity inspires our students and elevates our culture, and enriches our nation," noted the president at a White House dinner later that evening.

The nation's highest honor for artistic excellence, the National Medal of Arts is awarded each year to up to 12 individuals and organizations that have made enduring contributions to American culture. Nominations for the honor, submitted by Congress and the general public, are carefully reviewed by the National Council on the Arts before presentation to the White House for the president's final decision.

Since the program's 1982 inception, 231 medals have been awarded to luminaries such as painter Georgia O'Keeffe, composer Aaron Copland, and choreographer Twyla Tharp.



#### NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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 Sen. Patrick J. Leahy *D-VT*  
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 Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon *R-CA*  
 Rep. Patrick J. Tiberi *R-OH*

#### NEA ARTS STAFF

Paulette Beete *Editor*  
 Court Burns, Michael McLaughlin,  
 Victoria Hutter, Leslie Liberato *Contributors*  
 Anne Masters Design, Inc. *Design*

#### ON THE COVER:

JiYoung Lee from Washington National Opera solos at the Great American Voices launch. Photo: Keith W. Wood, The Boeing Company.

## NEA Spotlight

**Beyond Bricks and Mortar**

**“Preservation goes beyond bricks and mortar.”**

—Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton

**What do Alabama’s Bethel Baptist Church, the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the Monterey Jazz Festival Audio Collection, and two fine art murals from Cincinnati’s Terrace Plaza Hotel all have in common?** Each of these uniquely American treasures will receive crucial conservation work thanks to Save America’s Treasures (SAT), an innovative partnership among five federal entities: the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH), the National Park Service (NPS), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This collaborative program funds the preservation and conservation of the nation’s irreplaceable cultural treasures including historic properties and sites, artifacts, artistic works, and documents.

In the announcement of the 2005 grantees, Mrs. Laura Bush, honorary chair of PCAH, said, “Historic preservation and conservation has such an important place in America. The devastation in the Gulf region is

*Norman Rockwell works on The Art Critic, 1955. Photo: Bill Scoville, courtesy of Norman Rockwell Museum.*

a stark reminder of the significant fragility of buildings, sites, and artifacts that define our neighborhoods and the character of our country.”

Since its inception in 1999, the SAT program has awarded a total of \$202 million to more than 650 grantees. The two-pronged grant process awards support through congressional earmarks of historic preservation funds as well as through a competitive grants process. The nation’s three federal cultural agencies solicit and review applications, forwarding their best proposals to an expert panel.

This year the Arts Endowment awarded 10 grants, distributing a total of \$1,788,116. Selected projects ranged from conserving the archives of master choreographer Merce Cunningham to restoring Thomas Sully’s iconic 1817 painting, *The Passage of the Delaware*. The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, received a grant to support the preservation of acetate negatives of photography sessions directed by all-American illustrator and painter Norman Rockwell. Thanks to the SAT program, the nation’s history will continue to be told in all its many forms. For a list of the grantees, please visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

# Musical Cheers

## The NEA Launches Great American Voices Military Base Tour



**The usually hushed voices** of visitors to the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery gave way to soaring sopranos and tender tenors this past September as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) launched a new national initiative, Great American Voices Military Base Tour: Unforgettable Melodies from Opera and Broadway. With major support from The Boeing Company, 24 professional opera companies will present free performances for military personnel and their families at 39 military bases nationwide through 2006.

At the September 28 launch event, held in the Renwick's Grand Salon, vocalists from the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist program of The Washington National Opera performed against a backdrop of painting-filled walls. More than 200 guests were treated to a selection of work including "The Watch Duet" from Johann Strauss's 1874 opera *Die Fledermaus* and "Sing for Your Supper" from Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart's 1938 musical *The Boys from Syracuse*.

In the second half of the program, soprano Harolyn Blackwell, a Washington D.C. native, performed "Chacun le sait" from *La Fille du Regiment* by Gaetano Donizetti and "Glitter and Be Gay" from Richard Wilbur and Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*.

NEA Chairman and opera aficionado Dana Gioia emceed the event, noting that the Great American Voices initiative was built on the nation's strong tradi-

*Robin Follman and Scott Ramsay give a preview performance of the Great American Voices Military Base Tour at Camp Lejeune, July 4, 2005. Photo: Leslie Liberato.*

tion of opera and musical theater performance. He added that the program directly supported the Agency's mission to bring quality arts programming to underserved populations such as the military.

"Through Great American Voices, the NEA is building bridges between the military and arts community," said Chairman Gioia. "This tour gives singers a chance to perform for new audiences and brings great music in live performance to military families."

Great American Voices is the third in a series of historic partnerships between the NEA and the Department of Defense. Previously, the agencies have partnered for the Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour and Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience.

The Boeing Company, the world's leading aerospace company, also partnered with the Arts Endowment on the Operation Homecoming initiative, supporting writing workshops, educational activities, and a tour of *Beyond Glory*, Stephen Lang's one-man play about Medal of Honor recipients.

In the original announcement of the Great American Voices program, Jim Albaugh, president and CEO of



Boeing's Shep Hill with Col. James D. McGinley at the Great American Voices launch. Photo: Keith W. Wood, The Boeing Company.

Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, said "We're honored to support the National Endowment for the Arts and its work in bringing such outstanding programs to our servicemen and women and their families."

Shep Hill, Vice President of Business Development for Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, was a special guest at the Great American Voices launch event. Another initiative partner, OPERA America, the national service organization for opera, was represented by President and CEO Marc Scorca.

Also present at the well-attended event were Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Representative Kay Granger of Texas, and Representative Donald Manzullo of Illinois. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales attended with his wife Rebecca, the NEA's former Director of Development. Several senior military officials also attended.

The opera community was well represented by guests from program participants Ft. Worth Opera Association, Atlanta Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Pittsburgh Opera, San Diego Opera, and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Also on hand were famed coloratura



Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed, Julia Hart Reed, and the NEA's Eileen Mason at the launch. Photo: Keith W. Wood, The Boeing Company.

soprano Mattiwilda Dobbs and National Council on the Arts member Mary Costa, whose four-decade career as an opera singer included performances with New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Earlier this year, personnel at North Carolina's Camp LeJeune received a sneak peek at Great American Voices when Opera Carolina and the Winston-Salem Symphony performed at the base's Fourth of July celebration. An estimated 16,000 people attended the performance.

Opera Carolina will perform again at South Carolina's Fort Jackson in February 2006. By summer 2006, military bases in 24 states will benefit from the program including Los Angeles Air Force Base, Fort Campbell, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, and the United States Military Academy at West Point, which will host performers from Washington Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program.

The 24 participating opera companies hail from all regions including Alaska's Anchorage Opera, Illinois's Lyric Opera of Chicago, Texas's Fort Worth Opera Association, and Florida's Pensacola Opera. Each company's Great American Voices program will draw from a diverse repertoire ranging from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's comic opera *Così fan tutte* to Leonard Bernstein's urban classic *West Side Story* to Giuseppe Verdi's epic *Aida*.

The program also features free educational material such as a program booklet, which includes a timeline of important dates in opera and musical theater, a glossary of opera and musical theater terminology, and fun facts about famous works of opera and musical theater. An accompanying free CD further illustrates concepts specific to both genres through select musical excerpts.

More information about the initiative is available at [www.arts.gov/national/GAV](http://www.arts.gov/national/GAV).

From the Archives

# National Council on the Arts

In 1964, a year before President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act into law, Congress established the National Council on the Arts (NCA) as the nation's advisory board on the arts. These photos of the earliest NCA meetings are from the archives of R. Philip Hanes, Jr., an arts advocate and one of the Council's first members.



*Left: Author Ralph Ellison relaxes during a quiet moment.*



*Actor and producer Gregory Peck with choreographer Agnes DeMille during a break.*



*From l to r: Marian Anderson, Rudolph Serkin, and Duke Ellington during a discipline presentation at a 1966 NCA meeting.*

“... I was the only person who took photographs of the first years of the National Council of the Arts when it was meeting in Tarrytown [, New York]. I took pictures of virtually all of the Council members of those days in meetings, at rump sessions, at meals, and at play.”

—R. Philip Hanes, Jr., 1988



*The first NCA meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on April 9-10, 1965.*

# In Session

## The November National Council on the Arts meeting

**Since 1964**, nearly 200 artists, patrons, arts organization directors, and members of Congress have served on the National Council on the Arts (NCA), the Arts Endowment's advisory board. (Congressional members serve ex-officio.) The 156th Council meeting was held November 2-4, with Council members reviewing nearly 800 Access to Artistic Excellence grants. The Council recommended the distribution of nearly \$20.5 million in federal arts money, with more than half of the 2,270 sub-

mitted applications being approved for some funding. health of elders. The NEA was the primary sponsor for the study led by Dr. Gene Cohen at George Washington University's Center on Aging, Health, & Humanities. The study focused on three arts organizations across the country, which provide regular arts programming for the elderly.

Douglas Sonntag, Director of Dance and National Initiatives, spoke on the agency's pivotal role in creating a growth environment for concert dance in the U.S.



mitted applications being approved for some funding.

During the November 4th public session, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales administered the oath of office to new council member Mark Hofflund, Managing Director of the Idaho Shakespeare Festival and Chairman of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Idaho Senator Larry Craig and former Idaho Senator James McClure were on hand to congratulate Hofflund, along with Mrs. Louise McClure, a former NCA member.

NEA AccessAbility Director Paula Terry presented a landmark study on creativity and aging, the preliminary results of which indicate the markedly positive impact of arts participation on the physical and emotional

*Above, from l to r: NEA Chairman Dana Gioia, former Idaho Senator James McClure, Idaho Senator Larry Craig, Mark Hofflund, former NCA member Louise McClure, and Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales at the November 4 public session. Photo: Kathy Plowitz-Worden.*

The presentation on the agency's 27-year history of grantmaking in the folk and traditional arts, by division director Barry Bergey, was capped off with a performance by National Heritage Fellow Wayne Henderson. The NCA will convene for its 157th meeting on March 22-24, 2006.



New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin (center) shares the podium with (l to r) Tom Cochran, Exec. Dir. of the US Conference of Mayors; Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, founder of MICD; Ron Bogle, President and CEO of the American Architectural Foundation; Oliver Thomas, President of the New Orleans City Council; Jeff B. Speck, NEA; Louisiana Lieutenant Gov. Mitchell Landrieu. Photo: Aaron Koch.



NEA Director of Music and Opera Wayne Brown at the LBJ library NEA at 40 symposium. Photo: Charles Bogel.



Congresswoman Nancy Johnson (right) with NEA National Heritage Fellow Eldrid Skjold Arntzen (center) and NEA Senior Deputy Chairman Eileen Mason. Photo: Paulette Beete.



The Glens Falls Symphony performs Made in America. Photo: Michael Mason, courtesy of Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra.

**After the Storm**

Gulf Coast mayors attended two special sessions of the Mayors' Institute on City Design November 14 and 15. Jeff B. Speck, NEA Director of Design, said the programs offered the mayors "the opportunity to revisit the basic principles of design and the fundamentals of good city-making so they can wisely interpret and weigh all the advice they are receiving [on rebuilding]."

**Art Talk**

This fall Austin's LBJ Presidential Library and Museum hosted "The NEA at 40: Cultural Policy and American Democracy." The October 28th and 29th symposium featured a keynote address by NEA Chairman Dana Gioia and lively discussion from panelists including NEA Directors Wayne Brown and Douglas Sonntag.

**Sounding Off**

In October, 2004 NEA grantee Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra premiered "Made in America," a new work by Joan Tower collaboratively commissioned by 65 small orchestras in partnership with the American Symphony Orchestra League and Meet the Composer. With NEA funding in place, Ford Motor

Company committed \$500,000 to support the program over three years. Eight orchestras will perform the piece nationwide in November and December with the project serving 65 communities across all 50 states by 2007.

**The NEA in New England**

On November 14, Congresswoman Nancy L. Johnson of Connecticut's Fifth District hosted the Arts Endowment for a grant workshop in Waterbury. Held at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, the event for prospective grantees attracted representatives from more than 50 local arts organizations and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

