

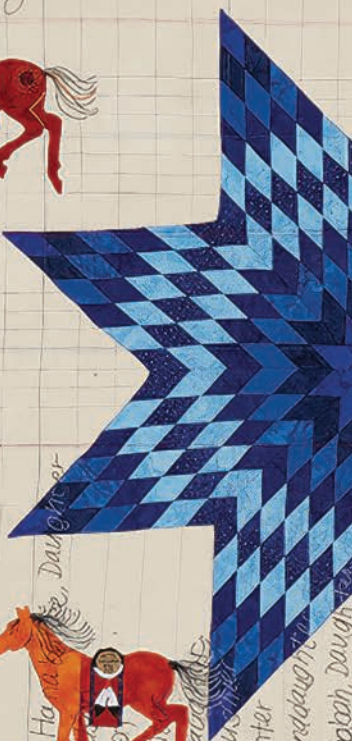
# 2024 National Heritage Fellowships

000

## Historical Weavers

*Dzitt'ahnii, Kir'yad'aanii,*

Mardona Naataanii Long walk  
 Ashaa Dalt'shnii Long walk  
 Goozoo Tin Yaa. sonii, Long walk  
 asdzaa Detonny, Long walk  
 asdzaa Tisie Long walk, Oldest Weaver  
 Hoston K'aa Great Great Grandfather Master Weaver  
 John K'aa Great Grandfather  
 Sen D'aa Fester Great grandmothe-  
 Shores woods Grandfather US Army  
 Grandmother Fester, Grandmother  
 Mary Ann Fester, Grandmother, Master Weaver  
 Derriing Strong woman who walks behind Woods  
 Naataanii Ban, Son  
 Crystal Thunder woman  
 Carlos Naataanii, Grandfather, Daughter  
 John Naataaniichi, Grandfather  
 Amber Karazbah, Daughter  
 Alera Kinyaanii, Grandfather  
 Lily Horatahkee, grandaunt  
 Tammy Yekidizbah, daughter  
 Rachel Grandin Granddaughter  
 Aem Shindin Granddaughter



Ben Nighmore  
U.S. SENATOR



*Remnants of Today,  
Cara de Vaga Series  
by Fabian Debora*  
Photo by Eddie Ruvalcaba

*COVER: Star Among the Shunka  
Wakaan quilt by Susan Hudson*  
Photo courtesy of the artist

# 2024 National Heritage Fellowships

---





*Crown by Sochietah Ung*  
Photo by Pat Jarrett  
of the Virginia Folklife Program

# Contents

---

Message from the President of the United States .....	2
Message from the NEA Chair .....	3

## 2024 NEA National Heritage Fellows

<b>Bril Barrett</b> .....	4
---------------------------	---

TAP DANCER | *Chicago, Illinois*

<b>Fabian Debora</b> .....	6
----------------------------	---

CHICANO MURALIST | *Los Angeles, California*

<b>Rosie Flores</b> .....	8
---------------------------	---

ROCKABILLY AND COUNTRY MUSICIAN | *Austin, Texas*

<b>Trimble Gilbert (Gwich'in)</b> .....	10
---	----

GWICH'IN FIDDLER | *Arctic Village, Alaska*

<b>Todd Goings</b> .....	12
--------------------------	----

CAROUSEL CARVER AND RESTORATIONIST | *Marion, Ohio*

<b>Susan Hudson (Navajo/Diné)</b> .....	14
---	----

QUILTER | *Sheep Springs, New Mexico*

<b>June Kuramoto</b> .....	16
----------------------------	----

KOTO MUSICIAN | *Alhambra, California*

<b>Sochietah Ung</b> .....	18
----------------------------	----

CAMBODIAN COSTUME MAKER AND DANCER | *Washington, DC*

<b>Zuni Olla Maidens</b> .....	20
--------------------------------	----

ZUNI TRADITIONAL DANCERS | *Zuni, New Mexico*

<b>Pat Johnson</b> .....	22
--------------------------	----

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZER | *Pocahontas, Arkansas*

Acknowledgments .....	24
-----------------------	----

Film Screening and Discussion Credits .....	25
---	----

National Heritage Fellows 1982-2023 .....	26
---	----

Submit an NEA National Heritage Fellowship Nomination .....	37
---	----

About the NEA .....	38
---------------------	----



**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
WASHINGTON

September 18, 2024

I send my heartfelt greetings to the 2024 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellows.

Each of you has woven your unique talents into the tapestry of America. Whether you use your abilities to create sights and sounds, rhythms and beats, or movements and melodies, your work brings people together. It reminds us of universal and simple truths. And it reflects the heart and soul of who we are both as Americans and as human beings. Together, you have not only preserved the culture that has always defined our country but also breathed new life into the very idea of America.

We are a Nation of promise and possibilities, of dreamers and doers, and of ordinary people doing extraordinary things—and that includes all of you. As you gather at the Library of Congress for this wonderful occasion, I hope you take time to reflect with pride on all it took to receive this immense honor. I have never been more optimistic about our future, and that's in no small part thanks to the talents and tenacity of people like you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden".

# Message from the Chair

**O**n behalf of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), I am delighted to congratulate the recipients of the 2024 National Heritage Fellowship, the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. These distinguished artists and culture bearers continue to sustain and elevate the vibrant cultural legacy of their respective art forms and communities, enriching our entire nation.

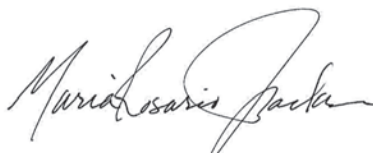
The artistic and creative expressions of the 2024 Heritage Fellows allow us to experience and engage our different cultures and histories with an open curiosity while building bridges to embrace our shared humanity as Americans and global citizens. We see this in the work of Indigenous artists like Rev. Dr. Trimble Gilbert (Gwich'in)'s preservation of Gwich'in fiddle music, the Zuni Olla Maiden (Zuni Pueblo)'s stewardship of traditional drumming, singing, and dance, and Susan Hudson (Navajo/Diné)'s quilting illustrating the history of the Navajo people. Others like Pat Johnson— the 2024 recipient of the Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship— create space to gather and connect. Through her activism, Johnson has led the development of the Eddie Mae Herron Center in Pocahontas, Arkansas, which honors regional African American history, tradition, and folk arts.

Mindful of the past, informed by the present, and with an eye towards the sustainability of their art form, Heritage Fellows create opportunities to reimagine artful practices for generations to come. June Kuramoto has forged a genre-transcending career for herself, fusing traditional Japanese *koto* with contemporary music as a member of the Asian American band, Hiroshima. Another

innovator, Rosie Flores, has preserved and extended the legacies of Texan musicians in the blues, western swing, and Tejano music, incorporating these influences into her own songwriting to pioneer the development of the alt-country movement.

In addition to capturing our histories and blazing new trails, culture bearers often serve our communities as teachers, helping us explore our creative capacity. They inspire us to discover moments of meaning, remembrance, joy, and transformation. This is evident in Brill Barrett's integration of history into his instruction of the West African "ring shout" tap dancing tradition, Sochietah Ung's dedication to Cambodian dance and costume making, Todd Goings's trainings for artisans, technicians, and engineers to maintain the beautiful form and function of carousels across the country, and Fabian Debora's commitment to spreading hope through his grand scale yet intricate murals of Chicano life, and his work as an arts educator for people who were formerly incarcerated.

Since the program's inception in 1982, the NEA has honored the vital and dynamic role of culture bearers in preserving and sharing their artistry, traditions, languages, and histories. We are proud to pay tribute to these exceptional fellows who stand as pillars of culture, upholding and exemplifying a broad range of heritage and artistic expression that forms the American story. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the lifetime dedication of our 2024 fellows! —



**Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD**  
Chair, National Endowment for the Arts

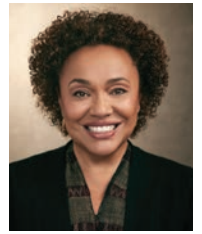


Photo by Aaron Jay Young

# Bril Barrett

TAP DANCER  
*Chicago, Illinois*

**B**ril Barrett is a Chicago tap dancer, teacher, and historian. Born and raised in North Lawndale on the West Side and now based in the South Side's Bronzeville, his four-decade career is rooted in place and crosses time.

Tap was created by enslaved Black people who, when drums were made illegal due to the instrument's role in resistance, communicated by making rhythms with their bodies instead. These rhythms were passed on in clandestine improvisation circles known as "shouts" or "ring shout," one of the few West African prayer practices to survive the Middle Passage. It is in this tradition that Barrett learns and teaches.

Barrett fell in love with tap at age four thanks to a program offered by his first teacher, Carlton Smith. After the program ended, Barrett's mother committed to continuing the lessons, riding with him two hours on the Red Line each way—where Barrett met his primary mentor, Ayrie "Mr. Taps" King.

Barrett joined a long line of dancers who came up "shedding wood" on street corners. After winning grand prize in 1988's Search for Chicago's Tap Dance Kid, he toured with companies such as Riverdance and Aaron Tolson's Imagine Tap. During that time, he learned from several early 20th-century legends of tap, including Dr. Jimmy Slyde, Dr. Bunny Briggs, and Dr. Leonard Reed.

Barrett soon realized that many audiences didn't know tap the way he had learned it. They might know Shirley Temple or Bill

"Bojangles" Robinson, but did they know Robinson's teacher, Alice Whitman? Did they know about tap as resilience, or resistance? He began to include a history lesson in every class he taught, recounting stories given by his teachers in turn.

With co-founders Jumaane Taylor and Martin "Tre" Dumas III, Barrett created the Making A Difference Dancing Rhythms Organization (M.A.D.D. Rhythms) in 2001 to provide a place for young people to learn and grow. M.A.D.D. Rhythms is now a leading tap collective worldwide, developing a partnership with Bronzeville's historic Harold Washington Cultural Center to provide affordable arts education and mentorship to Chicago youth.

In 2020, Barrett was awarded the Chicago Dancemakers Forum's Lab Artist Fellowship, and in 2022 he received the Helen Coburn Meier and Tim Meier Foundation for the Arts Achievement Award. M.A.D.D. Rhythms is a part of the International Association of Blacks in Dance's 2023-24 FRWD cohort, as well as the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project's 2023-24 cohort.

Barrett's pedagogy of shared improvisation for social-emotional learning shows his students that their lives and selves matter. His circles weave past, present, and future to pass on our history in the way it was created—in the rhythm of our breath, and bodies, and feet.

By Yul Ailea Stites, Making A Difference Dancing Rhythms Organization





Photo by Maia Rosenfield

# Fabian Debora

CHICANO MURALIST  
*Los Angeles, California*

Fabian “Spade” Debora’s artistic cultural work breaks our hearts, softens us, and leads us to move beyond the ideas we have about gang members and formerly incarcerated individuals. It works on us in ways to which we are little accustomed. A former incarcerated gang member, Debora’s artwork interprets a broad view of life experiences, which is aptly symbolized by his signature wide-rimmed shades. Through which, he sees tenderness and inclusivity, where low-riders transport love to places where love has not yet arrived.

In his birthplace of El Paso, Texas, and childhood community of East Los Angeles’ Boyle Heights, Debora was surrounded by the Chicano art movement’s groundbreaking cultural heritage work, which became visibly impactful in his muralism. This public art and its reflection on Chicano collective history, cultural identity, and social justice provided significant meaning in his Mexican American culture in Los Angeles. As a unique form of American art, it infused Debora’s imagination with hope during his oppressed youth. The Chicano art movement also supplied him with mural mentors whose influence was palpable in his work and in his desire to inform the broader community of the value of those who have been in gangs or incarceration.

As a first-generation Mexican American child with an incarcerated father, Debora was forced to flee to the street gang of his neighborhood for survival after being expelled from the Catholic parish school following an

incident of violence. Eventually, Debora’s gang lifestyle and graffiti art resulted in adolescent detention. Through his years of subsequent incarceration, struggles with substance abuse, and its impact on his mental health, Debora continued to use art as an outlet. Self-taught, his early pencil illustrations from his incarceration are now part of the Getty Museum’s Black Book.

Upon release as a young man, Debora walked into the doors of Los Angeles’ Homeboy Industries, the world’s largest gang rehabilitation program. After completing the non-profit’s rehabilitation program, he went on to create the organization’s substance abuse program and served as a drug counselor and art class facilitator. His talents evolved as a healing arts educator committed to sharing his gifts by teaching others with similar lived experience.

In 2019, as recipient of the Homeboy Hero Award, Debora founded the Homeboy Art Academy. As a culture bearer of the Chicano movement’s visual heritage, his trauma-informed vision led to his 2020 Hilton Humanitarian Fellowship. His art accompanies Gregory Boyle’s award-winning book *Forgive Everyone Everything*. His public murals and paintings are showcased throughout the United States and abroad. Above all, his work gives us hope.

By Gregory Boyle, S.J., Founder of Homeboy Industries and Laura Miera, Art Therapist



Photo by Eddie Ruvalcaba

# Rosie Flores

ROCKABILLY AND COUNTRY MUSICIAN

*Austin, Texas*

**R**osie Flores, triple-threat Texas musician, has never allowed the challenge of navigating the male-centric worlds of rock and country music slow her down. In fact, she often drew upon those challenges as source material in sharply observed songs she not only wrote and sang with authority and passion, but also brought to life musically as a widely respected lead guitarist in a string of notable bands.

A daughter of San Antonio whose musical journey also has included quality time in Austin, Los Angeles, and Nashville, Flores has adroitly absorbed, helped preserve, and extended the musical legacies of influential Texas musicians as varied as country music's King of Western Swing Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys, blues guitar master T-Bone Walker, and Tex Mex innovator Doug Sahm.

In the 1970s, she became one of the most celebrated performers on the "cowpunk" circuit (a hybrid of punk rock and country), alongside such other rising stars as Dwight Yoakam, Lucinda Williams, Rank & File, and Los Lobos (2021 NEA National Heritage Fellows). The release of her 1987 debut solo album *Rosie Flores* proved her to be a singer and songwriter of the first rank, and helped lay the foundation for what coalesced into the alt country movement.

Flores became the first Latina to crack Billboard's country music chart. For her enthusiastic participation in and ongoing promotion of Austin's deep and wide

music scene, including the annual South by Southwest Conference, the city has proclaimed Rosie Flores Day in 2006.

Flores has remained a spark plug live performer for more than five decades, a goosebump-inducing electric guitarist and songwriter as well as champion of the trailblazers who preceded her. Notably, she lured pioneering rockabilly heroines Wanda Jackson (2005 NEA National Heritage Fellow) and Janis Martin ("the female Elvis") back into recording studios and onto concert stages for lauded late-career rejuvenations. Flores won a 2007 Peabody Award for her narration of the NPR rockabilly documentary, *Whole Lotta Shakin'*.

Tapping her Mexican heritage, Flores formed Las Super Tejanas with singer-songwriter Tish Hinojosa, accordionist Eva Ybarra (2017 NEA National Heritage Fellow), Shelly Lara, and Las Madrugadoras mariachi trio.

Her esteem has only grown over the years, to the point where she and her music are included in Middle Tennessee State University's History of Country Music courses. She was afforded a prominent spotlight position in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's exhibition "Western Edge: The Roots & Reverberations of Los Angeles Country-Rock" in Nashville.

Randy Lewis covered pop music for the *Los Angeles Times* from 1981-2020, with special emphasis on country and Americana music.



Photo by Leslie Campbell

# Trimble Gilbert (Gwich'in)

GWICH'IN FIDDLER  
*Arctic Village, Alaska*

**T**rimble Gilbert is traditional chief and reverend of the Neets'ąjį Gwich'in people from Vashrajjı Koo, Alaska. The Gwich'in are among the furthest north of the American Indian people in North America, living in remote isolated villages. They live a subsistence lifestyle with traditions that date back more than 10,000 years.

Gilbert is a master Gwich'in fiddler and highly esteemed culture bearer. Few people possess the depth of cultural, spiritual, and intellectual knowledge and share it so extensively and with such humility as does Chief Gilbert. His life is a walking testament to the cultural values, practices, traditions, and knowledge of the Gwich'in people.

European contact with the Gwich'in began in 1840 through French Canadian fur traders, who brought with them the fiddle, jig, and square dances. The Gwich'in took fondly to the new music and quickly adapted it to have Indigenous names and style, defining a unique genre of folk fiddle sound, Gwich'in fiddle music.

Gilbert was born in 1935 to James and Maggie Gilbert in Vashrajjı Koo. At the time, the Neets'ąjį Gwich'in lived a nomadic lifestyle, traversing vast wilderness, following the changing seasons and migration of animals they depended on for their survival. There was no school in the village, so Gilbert's education was on the land, learning from his parents and elders the ways of arctic survival. From his earliest years, he was an avid, self-driven

learner. By seven years old he was already working on making his own snowshoes from bent wood and sinew.

During the holidays the Gwich'in would gather in the village, returning from remote hunting and trapping grounds, to celebrate together. These celebrations included Gwich'in fiddle dances, which extended an entire week into the New Year. As a young boy, Gilbert remembers being captivated by the sounds of the fiddle and exuberance of the dances.

In 1953, the Neets'ąjį Gwich'in began to settle more permanently into the village and Gilbert ordered a fiddle from the Sears Roebuck catalogue. He learned to play the fiddle in the same way he learned other facets of Gwich'in cultural and traditional knowledge: through watching, listening, and diligent practice. By the 1970s, he was able to listen to Gwich'in fiddle music coming over the airwaves from Canada on a transistor radio. This helped him to further refine his repertoire of songs and unique style.

Rev. Dr. Chief Trimble Gilbert's intellectual, cultural, and artistic contributions to Alaska were recognized by the University of Alaska Fairbanks with an honorary doctorate in 2016. He has dedicated much of his life to teaching others through programs such as Dancing with the Spirit, which brings fiddle music into schools. His knowledge is a national treasure, only rivaled by his willingness to share and teach others.

By Evon Peter (Neets'ąjį Gwich'in), Senior Research Scientist, University of Alaska Fairbanks



Photo by Alex Troutman  
of Channel Films

# Todd Goings

## CAROUSEL CARVER AND RESTORATIONIST

*Marion, Ohio*

**M**aster carousel carver and restorationist Todd Goings has worked for 35 years to keep the art of American carved wooden carousels alive. Built in a handful of master artisan workshops from the 1880s to the 1930s, wooden carousels are participatory folk-art environments that set whimsical carved animals to music and movement in custom-built mechanical frames. Of America's several-thousand original wooden carousels, just 150 remain. Goings has worked on many of them, and, along the way, has revived the American carousel workshop for a new century.

Raised in the rural village of Caledonia in North Central Ohio, Goings came to carousels through an early passion for woodworking, with jobs in cabinetry, millwork, patternmaking, and eventually, woodcarving. By the 1980s, the sad state of America's wooden carousels had sparked a revival of carousel conservation across America which, in turn, demanded a rebirth of traditional carousel arts. Goings' wide-ranging woodworking training was destiny. "It chose me," he said. "Everything I personally learned, the only place it comes together is on carousels."

Goings opened Carousels and Carvings—a full-service artisan carousel workshop—in Marion, Ohio, in the 1990s. A century separated from master carousel artists like W.H. Dentzel, Charles I.D. Loeff, William F. Mangels, & Marcus Illions, Goings trained himself as a carousel carver through years of restoring the masters' work. Goings is quick

to note that a carousel is more, however, than just a frame for carved menageries: it is an "interactive, rideable piece of art" that keeps a century-old leisure experience alive. Carousels and Carvings is one of only a handful of shops in the country specializing in restoring and building whole carousels: from the carvings to the frame to custom-built mechanicals. Carousels and Carvings has restored dozens of carousels—including Philadelphia's Woodside Park Carousel, Coney Island's B&B Carousel, the Memphis Grand Carousel, and the Hydro Oklahoma Carousel—alongside newly built carousels that expand and update tradition with unusual animals and wheelchair-accessible chariots. Like the past masters, Goings' work takes years. The time is worth it, he said: "In my career, I've never taken a carousel down that hasn't gone back up."

Carousels and Carvings provides training and livelihoods to artisans, craftspeople, engineers, and technicians from across North Central Ohio. But Goings' work doesn't stop in the shop: every spring, he and his team crisscross the country's zoos, amusement parks, and fairgrounds for the annual pre-season carousel check-ups that earned him the nickname "the carousel doctor." For his tireless dedication to keeping carousel traditions alive, Goings' peers have called him "genius" and "the best in the business." But for Goings, the magic of the carousel—what makes it all worthwhile—is in its use: it's folk art you can ride.

By Jess Lamar Reece Holler, Folklorist, Marion Voices  
Folklife & Oral History





Photo by Kyle C. Goings for  
Carousel and Carvings, Inc.

# Susan Hudson (Navajo/Diné)

QUILTER

*Sheep Springs, New Mexico*

**S**usan Hudson is a multidimensional artist and skilled quilter, who has tapped into her personal struggles and the struggles of her people through her art. Born in East Los Angeles, California, she now lives in Sheep Springs, New Mexico. A member of the Navajo Nation, Hudson's clans are Towering House People, Apache People, Water Edge People, and Mexican People.

Hudson's mother, Dorothy Woods, as well as her grandmothers, were forced to learn sewing in boarding schools where there was little tolerance for mistakes. When Hudson was nine years of age, her mother taught her how to sew out of necessity, as they were quite poor and couldn't afford to buy clothes. Hudson learned to alter donated clothes and made quilts out of the scraps.

Hudson's quilting became an income stream when she began making Star Quilts for Indian pow wows and giveaways at the request of Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a former U.S. Senator from Colorado. Senator Campbell encouraged her to break away from making traditional star quilts and she soon developed her own artistic voice with contemporary ledger art quilts.

Ledger art is a type of narrative drawing or painting on animal hides, primarily practiced by Plains Indians in the 1860s. Hudson uses a crossover style inspired by ledger art, recounting history through her quilts. She has taken her quilting to a whole new level, serving as an activist storyteller. Her pictorial quilts honor her ancestors and illustrate the proud history of the Navajo people.

Through quilting, Hudson chronicles the sacrifices and strengths of her family and remembers their hardships. Important pieces in her work include the quilts she has named *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Since 1492* and *Walk of My Ancestors: Coming Home*, depicting the return from the Long Walk of the Navajos. Hudson also creates quilts that depict the trauma of the boarding schools.

Hudson is a co-founder of the Navajo Quilt Project, which donates fabric to elders all across the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Quilt Project engages with the community, makes quilts for giveaways and traditional ceremonies, and empowers others to start their own businesses.

Hudson's quilts have been acquired for collection by the International Quilt Museum, Heard Museum, Autry Western Museum, Riverside Museum, and National Museum of the American Indian. Other acquisitions include the Gochman Collection, the John and Susan Horseman Foundation, and many private collectors.

No longer silenced, the voices of her Indigenous relatives can now be heard through Hudson's quilt exhibitions around the country. In competition, her quilts have garnered 29 First Place awards, 16 Second Place awards, 6 Third Place awards, 4 Special awards, 12 Best of Division awards, Jackie Autry Purchase, Idyllwild Imagination Art Award, and 5 Best of Show awards.

By Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne),  
U.S. Senator - Retired



Photo courtesy of the artist

# June Kuramoto

KOTO MUSICIAN  
Alhambra, California

June Kuramoto came to the U.S. by boat as a child from Japan as an immigrant in the 1950s. She was raised in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Crenshaw, home to many Black artists, including Ray Charles, Tina Turner, and Natalie Cole, was one of the few neighborhoods where Japanese did not face discrimination and were allowed to freely live. As a young child, when she heard Kazue Kudo, a virtuoso *koto* player from Japan, perform. Kuramoto knew the *koto*, a 13-string Japanese instrument, would be her connection to Japan, and she asked her mother if she could take lessons. Kudo Sensei recognized Kuramoto's talent and her ability to emotionally connect to the music. As a vibrant young *koto*ist, she was a featured player in numerous classical *koto* concerts in LA's Little Tokyo.

A big fan of rock-and-roll and soul, Kuramoto wanted to adapt the song "Duke of Earl" that she heard on the radio for the *koto*. Her teacher told her that this would be difficult to do. This challenge only catalyzed her desire and determination to experiment combining the traditional Japanese *koto* with contemporary music. This led her to the creation of Hiroshima, a pioneering Grammy-nominated Asian American band that blended the sounds of the *koto* with keyboards, sax, drums, guitar, bass, and vocals.

Through Hiroshima she not only fulfilled her dream, but Kuramoto also became a mentor and role model to young Japanese American

women who now had a sense of pride in their culture and identity. A pivotal moment for Kuramoto came in the early 1980s when Hiroshima performed their first tour outside of California. At a Howard University performance, Kuramoto recalls the rousing standing ovation she received for her solo and credits this performance as the start of many years of undying support for her music by the Black community.

Her recording credits for television, film, and stage include *Heroes*, *The Last Samurai*, and the musical *Sansei*. Kuramoto has been recognized with many awards both as an individual and as a co-founder of Hiroshima. The Smithsonian, U.S. Congress, State of California, and City and County of Los Angeles have honored her work. Kuramoto served twice as an artist-in-residence at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. She served as president of the *Koto* String Society, a nonprofit group that produced shows featuring up to 100 *koto* performers accompanied by a full symphony orchestra.

Today she gives of her time freely to teach a group of seniors and to mentor up-and-coming *koto* artists. Kuramoto is an in-demand solo artist at community events like the annual Day of Remembrance which is a time to reflect upon the years of suffering by our ancestors during the war.

By Janice D. Tanaka, Filmmaker and writer



Photo by Jaimee Itagaki

# Sochietah Ung

CAMBODIAN COSTUME MAKER AND DANCER  
*Washington, DC*

**S**ochietah Ung is a multitalented costume maker, dancer, teacher, choreographer, playwright, and producer with a passion for sharing his skills across and beyond Cambodian communities nationwide. He is particularly known for his costume and crown making. Ung's crowns are the favored throughout the United States and internationally, including by Princess Bopha Devi who came to the U.S. to perform in 1985. The Princess was so impressed that she told him, "You have fate. You were born to do this job." Ung also created crowns for a Broadway production of *The King and I*. He is one of the community's leading teachers for three of the major Cambodian dance roles (giant, male, and female) as well as a favored folk dance teacher. In addition, Ung is an all-around director of popular Cambodian theater productions.

Ung's broad knowledge derives from his childhood in Cambodia, where he regularly attended classical theater with his grandmother. He became enamored with it, committing every costume detail and dance movement to memory. In those early years, he could not have known how invaluable his passion would become in the future.

Ung survived the Cambodian genocide from 1975 to 1979. Pressed into forced labor under deadly conditions established by the Khmer

Rouge, Ung was the only one in his family to escape the ordeal alive. He was fortunate to have sponsors who adopted him, eventually bringing him to the Washington, DC area. At that time in the early 1980s, several Cambodian dancers in DC were cobbling together a performance. They heard about Ung and his knowledge of Khmer classical theater and reached out to him. He not only advised them on the appearance of the costumes but began crafting them himself. He also started dancing.

Since that time, Ung has diligently studied Cambodian dance and has become a master dancer and teacher. He learned not only from U.S.-based masters like Phuong Phan, but he also learned from Chea Samy, Sok Samon, Neak Kru Leas, and other masters from Cambodia.

Over the decades, Ung has imparted Cambodian dance and costume making to hundreds of students. He regularly performs at theaters, festivals, and museums throughout the Washington, DC region, including the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian, National Folk Festivals, and more. In 2016, the Virginia Folklife Program recognized him as a master costume maker. Ung regularly displays and demonstrates his work at folk festivals in Richmond and throughout the country.



Photo by Pat Jarrett of the Virginia Folklife Festival

# Zuni Olla Maidens

## TRADITIONAL ZUNI DANCERS AND SINGERS

*Zuni, New Mexico*

**T**he Zuni Olla Maidens are a venerated dance troupe from Zuni Pueblo in western New Mexico, equally well-known for singing, drumming and their trademark dance balancing pottery on their heads, as well as being an all-female troupe. The Zuni Olla Maidens are also unique in that their group has always consisted of related women, making it a family affair for more than 70 years.

The significance of the family connection gives the Zuni Olla Maidens reliance and longevity. The individual members are stewards, knowing they owe much to the women that came before, as well as being responsible for those who will come after they are gone.

The balanced pottery style of dancing originated in the 1920s by a Hopi woman named Daisy Nampeyo, who married into Zuni. It was designed as a social dance, performed by women, to showcase both Zuni pottery as well as the clothing and jewelry made in the Pueblo.

In the 1950s, the style was adopted by Crystal Sheka. The group was led for decades by Sheka's daughter, Cornelia Bowannie. When Bowannie retired from the group in 2015, her daughters, Juanita Edaakie and Loretta Beyuka, became leaders. Edaakie says when they retire, they'll pass on the leadership to one of their nieces.

Being both a family group and exclusively female is essential to the Zuni Olla Maidens. Edaakie explains: "We pay homage to our ancestral women who centuries ago used to get water from nearby and carry them in these great big jars called *ollas*. Olla is the Spanish word for pot. And we know it wasn't an easy job."

The Zuni Olla Maidens have been recognized with invited performances at the National Museum of the American Indian, (Washington, DC), Richmond Folk Festival (Richmond, Virginia), Zuni Festival of Arts & Culture, (Flagstaff, Arizona), and Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial (Gallup, New Mexico) among others. A recreation of the Olla Maidens regalia, made by Edaakie, is part of the Museum of Indian Arts and Cultures' permanent exhibit in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The group received the distinguished Allan Houser Award from the Santa Fe Indian Market for "preserving and reshaping the face of native arts." They were also recognized with a New Mexico Historic Women Marker, a roadside marker east of Zuni Pueblo that briefly outlines the group's history and honors their artistic excellence.

By Thomas Grant Richardson, PhD. Director, Center for Washington Cultural Traditions.





Photo by Remsberg, Inc.

# Pat Johnson

## COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZER

*Pocahontas, Arkansas*

**P**at Finley Johnson is a pillar to the community of Pocahontas, Arkansas, where she supports community fellowship, traditional knowledge, and Black culture and heritage. As a recipient of the 2024 NEA Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship, Johnson has worked tirelessly for over two decades to contribute to the preservation of local history and folklife in Randolph County, Arkansas.

Born in 1948 in Pocahontas, she has lived in Randolph County for her entire life. She attended the “Pocahontas Colored School” as a child and was a student of Eddie Mae Herron. After completing eighth grade, she was bussed with African American students from Pocahontas and other rural towns to Newport to attend high school. It was during these bus trips that she met Sherley Johnson and the two began dating. They were married in February 1966 and have two children: Jacqueline and Douglas, four granddaughters, and four great-granddaughters.

Johnson started her journey to create the Eddie Mae Herron Center in 2000 as a way for her community to gather and connect with and honor the nearly two hundred years of African American history, traditions, and culture in Randolph County. She retired in 2008 from her work with the Arkansas Health Department and the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Shortly after her retirement, Johnson began working full-time as a community activist. From the start, Johnson brought community members and institutions together to provide a foundation

for this effort and form an important network of long-term supporters. She plans events that increase the vitality of the community and creates a space for public engagement and appreciation of local history and African American history. The Eddie Mae Herron Center tells the story of Randolph County through photographs, displays, books, and spoken memories of the people who grew up there, and preserves that heritage for future generations.

The Eddie Mae Herron Center’s public programs draw people together, all of which Johnson organizes and attends. The Center has annual events for Black History Month, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Juneteenth, Christmas, family reunions, and birthday parties. Johnson has organized many other events that have brought together people from the community to learn about local history and folk arts, including an annual hog butchering event which was included as part of the 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Through the Eddie Mae Herron Center, Johnson has created a dynamic space for local community traditions, community fellowship and activism, a place where the performance of daily heritage is enacted regularly and safely. Johnson’s work diversifies the history of the Ozarks region and honors the evolving nature of folklife while also upholding important community traditions, folk arts, and customary knowledge.

By Lauren Adams Willette, Folk Arts Fieldwork Coordinator, Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts



Photo by Lauren Adams Willette



The Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship honors “keepers of tradition” who through their efforts as organizers, educators, producers, cultural advocates, or caretakers of skills and repertoires have had a major beneficial effect on the traditional arts of the United States. A member of the Lomax family of pioneering American folklorists, Bess Lomax Hawes (1921–2009) committed her life to the documentation and presentation of American folk artists. She served as an educator both inside the classroom and beyond, and nurtured

the field of public folklore through her service at the National Endowment for the Arts. During her tenure as director of the NEA Folk Arts Program (1977–1993) an infrastructure of state folklorists was put in place, statewide folk arts apprenticeship programs were initiated, and the National Heritage Fellowships were created. In 1993 she received the National Medal of Arts for her many contributions in assisting folk artists nationwide and in bringing folk artistry to the attention of the public.

# Acknowledgments



## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, Chair  
Ascala Tsegaye Sisk, Senior Deputy Chair  
Ra Joy, Chief of Staff  
Jennifer Chang, White House Liaison and Senior Advisor to the Chair  
Sonia Tower, Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs  
Ayanna Hudson, Chief Strategy, Programs, and Engagement Officer

## National Heritage Fellowships Production Staff

Erin Jenkins Waylor, Folk & Traditional Arts Team Lead  
Don Ball, Assistant Director of Public Affairs (Publications)  
Christine Gant, Advisor to the Director of Event Management & Development  
Allison Hill, Public Affairs Specialist  
Clifton Archuleta, Audiovisual Production Specialist  
Carlos Arrien, Web Specialist  
Elizabeth Auclair, Assistant Director of Public Affairs (Press)  
Paulette Beete, Social Media Manager  
Aunye Boone, Writer/Editor  
Carolyn Coons, Public Affairs Specialist  
Jean Choi, Attorney Advisor  
Lauren DeMarco, Asst. Grants Management Specialist  
Mike Burke Kirby, Congressional Services Officer  
William Langer, Attorney Advisor  
David Low, Web Manager  
Josephine Reed, Media Producer  
Kelli Rogowski, Visual Information Specialist  
Jennie Terman, Folk & Traditional Arts Specialist

The National Endowment for the Arts would like to express its appreciation to the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) for its assistance in planning and producing the 2024 National Heritage Fellowships events, which were managed for the NCTA by Senior Associate Director Madeleine Remez. The NCTA is a private non-profit corporation founded in 1933 and dedicated to the presentation and documentation of folk and traditional arts in the United States.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE TRADITIONAL ARTS

### National Council for the Traditional Arts Staff

Blaine Waide, Executive Director  
Madeleine Remez, Senior Associate Director  
Colleen Arnerich, Director of Production and Operations  
Colleen (CJ) Holroyd, Program Services Manager  
Bridgette Hammond, Festival Logistics Coordinator  
Keenan Dubois, Production Assistant  
Kayt Novak, Festival Assistant  
Amy Millin, Development Specialist  
Elaine Randolph, Administrative Specialist  
Deirdre Whitty, Finance Manager  
Vitoria Ido, Finance Assistant

*The NCTA presents the nation's finest traditional artists to the public in festivals, national and international tours, concerts, radio and television programs, films, recordings and other programs. For over 30 years, the NCTA has worked with the National Endowment for the Arts on a consulting basis to manage and coordinate the National Heritage Fellowships activities honoring the Fellowship recipients.*

The National Endowment for the Arts and the NCTA would also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the following individuals and institutions:

Cheryl T. Schiele  
The staff at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theatre  
American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Nicole Saylor, Director  
Theadocia Austen  
Old Town Trolley Tours  
Mid South Audio

Program and promotional materials designed by Fletcher Design, Inc./Washington, DC

# Film Screening and Discussion Credits

Kennedy Center Terrace Theater – September 17, 2024

## Director

Paul Douglas Michnewicz

## Stage Manager

Valerie Bijur Carlson

## Set Design

Tony Cisek

## Lighting Design

Amy Elliott

## Production Assistant/Green Room Coordinator

Susie Pamudji

## Logistics

Rahmah Elmassry

Amy Millin

## Video Projection/Production

CVW Event Productions

## Photography/Documentation

Tom Pich

## Sign Language Interpreter

Miako Villanueva

## Transportation Coordinator

Eddie Mendoza

## Radio Production

### *American Routes*

Host and Executive Producer: Nick Spitzer

Producer: Olivia Broslawski

Additional artist interviews courtesy

Josephine Reed, Media Producer, Public

Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts

Go to [Amroutes.org](http://Amroutes.org) for air dates and listings

---

## Master of Ceremonies



Jake Blount is an award-winning performer and interpreter of Black folk music. He has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, Newport Folk Festival, and NPR's *Tiny Desk Concerts*. His writing has appeared in NPR, *Rolling Stone*, *Paste Magazine* and elsewhere. Originally born in Washington, DC, Blount is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Musicology and Ethnomusicology at Brown University in Providence, RI.

The 2024 National Heritage Fellowship films were produced by Hypothetical in association with the National Council for the Traditional Arts presented by the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Directed and Produced by

Olivia Merrion

Aurora Brachman

Princess Daazhraii Johnson

James Johnson III

Chelsea Hernandez

Neiagha Thomans

Ryan Goble

Jake Zalutsky

## Coordinating Producer

National Council for the Traditional Arts

Madeleine Remez

## Coordinating Producer

National Endowment for the Arts

Erin Jenkins Waylor

## Executive Producer

Hypothetical

Olivia Merrion

## Editors

Omri-Shir Dallal, Apropost

Lorena Alvarado

Ái Vuong, TÁPI Story

Samuel Díaz Fernández, TÁPI Story

Mitch Martin, The Cutting Board

Nico Frank

Trisha Pickelhaupt

Will N. Miller

Olivia Merrion

Colin Marshall

## Additional Production Assistance

National Endowment for the Arts

Clifton Archuleta

Elizabeth Auclair

Don Ball

Allison Hill

Josephine Reed

## Sound Design & Miix

Hansdale Hsu

## Colorist

Stephen Derluguian

## Special Thanks

Cheryl T. Schiele

*This event is an external rental presented in coordination with the Kennedy Center Campus Rentals Office and is not produced by the Kennedy Center.*

# National Heritage Fellows

1982–2023



1982

**Dewey Balfa \***  
Cajun Fiddler  
*Basile, LA*

**Joe Heaney \***  
Irish Singer  
*Brooklyn, NY*

**Tommy Jarrell \***  
Appalachian Fiddler  
*Mt. Airy, NC*

**Bessie Jones \***  
Georgia Sea Island Singer  
*Brunswick, GA*

**George Lopez \***  
Santos Woodcarver  
*Cordova, NM*

**Brownie McGhee \***  
Blues Guitarist/Singer  
*Oakland, CA*

**Hugh McGraw \***  
Shape Note Singer  
*Bremen, GA*

**Lydia Mendoza \***  
Mexican American Singer  
*San Antonio, TX*

**Bill Monroe \***  
Bluegrass Musician  
*Nashville, TN*

**Elijah Pierce \***  
Carver/Painter  
*Columbus, OH*

**Adam Popovich \***  
Tamburitza Musician  
*Dolton, IL*

**Georgeann Robinson \***  
Osage Ribbonworker  
*Bartelsville, OK*

**Duff Severe \***  
Saddle Maker  
*Pendleton, OR*

**Philip Simmons \***  
Ornamental Ironwork  
*Charleston, SC*

**Sanders "Sonny" Terry \***  
Blues Harmonica/Singer  
*Holliswood, NY*

1983

**Sister Mildred Barker \***  
Shaker Singer  
*Poland Spring, ME*

**Rafael Cepeda \***  
Bomba Musician/Dancer  
*Santurce, PR*

**Ray Hicks \***  
Appalachian Storyteller  
*Banner Elk, NC*

**Stanley Hicks \***  
Appalachian Musician/  
Storyteller/Instrument Maker  
*Vilas, NC*

**John Lee Hooker \***  
Blues Guitarist/Singer  
*San Francisco, CA*

**Mike Manteo \***  
Sicilian Marionettist  
*Staten Island, NY*

**Narciso Martinez \***  
Texas-Mexican Accordionist/  
Composer  
*San Benito, TX*

**Lanier Meaders \***  
Potter  
*Cleveland, GA*

**Almeda Riddle \***  
Ballad Singer  
*Greers Ferry, AR*

**Joe Shannon \***  
Irish Piper  
*Chicago, IL*

**Simon St. Pierre \***  
French American Fiddler  
*Smyrna Mills, ME*

**Alex Stewart \***  
Cooper/Woodworker  
*Sneedville, TN*

**Ada Thomas \***  
Chitimacha Basketmaker  
*Charenton, LA*

**Lucinda Toomer \***  
African American Quilter  
*Columbus, GA*

**Lem Ward \***  
Decoy Carver/Painter  
*Crisfield, MD*

**Dewey Williams \***  
Shape Note Singer  
*Ozark, AL*

\* Deceased

## 1984

**Clifton Chenier \***  
Creole Accordionist  
*Lafayette, LA*

**Bertha Cook \***  
Knotted Bedspread Maker  
*Boone, NC*

**Joseph Cormier \***  
Cape Breton Violinist  
*Waltham, Ma*

**Elizabeth Cotten \***  
African American Singer/Songster  
*Syracuse, NY*

**Burlon Craig \***  
Potter  
*Vale, NC*

**Albert Fahlbusch \***  
Hammered Dulcimer Player/  
Builder  
*Scottsbluff, Ne*

**Janie Hunter \***  
African American Singer/  
Storyteller  
*Johns Island, SC*

**Mary Jane Manigault \***  
African American Seagrass  
Basketmaker  
*Mt. Pleasant, SC*

**Genevieve Mougin \***  
Lebanese American Lace Maker  
*Bettendorf, IA*

**Martin Mulvihill \***  
Irish American Fiddler  
*Bronx, NY*

**Howard "Sandman"  
Sims \***  
African American Tap Dancer  
*New York, NY*

**Ralph Stanley \***  
Bluegrass Banjo Player/  
Appalachian Singer  
*Coeburn, VA*

**Margaret Tafoya \***  
Santa Clara Pueblo Potter  
*Espanola, Nm*

**Dave Tarras \***  
Klezmer Clarinetist  
*Brooklyn, NY*

**Paul Tiulana \***  
Eskimo Mask Maker/Dancer/  
Singer  
*Anchorage, Ak*

**Cleofas Vigil \***  
Hispanic Storyteller/Singer  
*San Cristobal, NM*

**Emily Kau'i  
Zuttermeister \***  
Hula Master (Kumu Hula)  
*Kaneohe, HI*

## 1985

**Eppie Archuleta \***  
Hispanic Weaver  
*San Luis Valley, CO*

**Periklis Halkias \***  
Greek Clarinetist  
*Astoria Queens, NY*

**Jimmy Jausoro \***  
Basque Accordionist  
*Boise, ID*

**Mealii Kalama \***  
Hawaiian Quilter  
*Honolulu, HI*

**Lily May Ledford \***  
Appalachian Musician/Singer  
*Lexington, KY*

**Leif Melgaard \***  
Norwegian Woodcarver  
*Minneapolis, MN*

**Bua Xou Mua \***  
Hmong Musician  
*Portland, OR*

**Julio Negrón-Rivera \***  
Puerto Rican Instrument Maker  
*Morovis, PR*

**Alice New Holy  
Blue Legs \***  
Lakota Sioux Quill Artist  
*Rapid City, SD*

**Glenn Ohrlin \***  
Cowboy Singer/Storyteller/  
Illustrator  
*Mountain View, AR*

**Henry Townsend \***  
Blues Musician/Songwriter  
*St. Louis, MO*

**Horace "Spoons"  
Williams \***  
Percussionist/Poet  
*Philadelphia, PA*



*1984 Fellow  
Mary Jane Manigault  
Photo by Tom Pich*

## 1986

**Alphonse "Bois Sec"  
Ardoin \***  
Creole Accordionist  
*Eunice, LA*

**Earnest Bennett \***  
Anglo-American Whittler  
*Indianapolis, IN*

**Helen Cordero \***  
Pueblo Potter  
*Cochiti, NM*

**Sonia Domsch \***  
Czech American Bobbin  
Lace Maker  
*Atwood, KS*

**Canray Fontenot \***  
Creole Fiddler  
*Welsh, LA*

**John Jackson \***  
Black Songster/Guitarist  
*Fairfax Station, VA*

**Peou Khatna \***  
Cambodian Court Dancer/  
Choreographer  
*Silver Spring, MD*

**Valerio Longoria \***  
Mexican American Accordionist  
*San Antonio, TX*

**Doc Tate Nevaquaya \***  
Comanche Indian Flutist  
*Apache, OK*

**Luis Ortega \***  
Hispanic American Rawhide Worker  
*Paradise, CA*

**Ola Belle Reed \***  
Appalachian Banjo Picker/Singer  
*Rising Sun, MD*

**Jennie Thlunaut \***  
Tlingit Chilkat Blanket Weaver  
*Haines, AK*

**Nimrod Workman \***  
Appalachian Ballad Singer  
*Macot, & Chattaroy, TN/WV*

## 1987

**Juan Alindato \***  
Carnival Maskmaker  
*Ponce, PR*

**Louis Bashell \***  
Slovenian Accordionist  
*Greenfield, WI*

**Genoveva Castellanoz**  
Mexican American Corona Maker  
*Nyssa, OR*

**Thomas Edison  
"Brownie" Ford \***  
Anglo-Comanche Cowboy  
Singer/Storyteller  
*Herbert, LA*

**Kansuma Fujima \***  
Japanese American Dancer  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**Claude Joseph Johnson \***  
African American Religious  
Singer/Orator  
*Atlanta, GA*

**Raymond Kane \***  
Hawaiian Slack Key Guitarist/  
Singer  
*Wai'ane, HI*

**Wade Mainer \***  
Appalachian Banjo Picker/Singer  
*Flint, MI*

**Sylvester McIntosh \***  
Crucian Singer/Bandleader  
*St. Croix, VI*

**Allison "Tootie"  
Montana \***  
Mardi Gras Chief/Costume Maker  
*New Orleans, LA*

**Alex Moore, Sr. \***  
African American Blues Pianist  
*Dallas, TX*

**Emilio & Senaida  
Romero \***  
Hispanic American Tin and  
Embroidery Workers  
*Santa Fe, NM*

**Newton Washburn \***  
Split Ash Basketmaker  
*Bethlehem, NH*

## 1988

**Pedro Ayala \***  
Mexican American Accordionist  
*Donna, TX*

**Kepka Belton \***  
Czech American Egg Painter  
*Ellsworth, KS*

**Amber Densmore \***  
New England Quilter/Needleworker  
*Chelsea, VT*

**Michael Flatley**  
Irish American Stepdancer  
*Palos Park, IL*

**Sister Rosalia Haberl \***  
German American Bobbin  
Lace Maker  
*Hankinson, ND*

**John Dee Holeman \***  
African American Musician/  
Dancer/Singer  
*Durham, NC*

**Albert “Sunnyland Slim”  
Laundrew \***  
Blues Pianist/Singer  
*Chicago, IL*

**Yang Fang Nhu \***  
Hmong Weaver/Embroiderer  
*Detroit, MI*

**Kenny Sidle \***  
Anglo-American Fiddler  
*Newark, OH*

**Willi Mae Ford Smith \***  
African American Gospel Singer  
*St. Louis, MO*

**Clyde “Kindy” Sproat \***  
Hawaiian Cowboy Singer/Ukulele  
Player  
*Kapaae, HI*

**Arthel “Doc” Watson \***  
Appalachian Guitarist/Singer  
*Deep Gap, NC*

## 1989

**John Cephas \***  
Piedmont Blues  
Guitarist/Singer  
*Woodford, VA*

**Fairfield Four**  
African American a Capelle  
Gospel Singers  
*Nashville, TN*

**José Gutiérrez**  
Mexican Jarocho Musician/Singer  
*Norwalk, CA*

**Richard Avedis  
Hagopian**  
Armenian Oud Player  
*Visalia, CA*

**Christy Hengel \***  
German American Concertina  
Maker  
*New Ulm, MN*

**Vanessa Paukeigope  
Jennings**  
Kiowa Regalia Maker  
*Fort Cobb, OK*

**Ilias Kementzides \***  
Pontic Greek Lyra Player  
and Builder  
*South Norwalk, CT*

**Ethel Kvalheim \***  
Norwegian Rosemaler  
*Stoughton, WI*

**Mabel E. Murphy \***  
Anglo-American Quilter  
*Fulton, MO*

**LaVaughn E. Robinson \***  
African American Tap Dancer  
*Philadelphia, PA*

**Earl Scruggs \***  
Bluegrass Banjo Player  
*Nashville, TN*

**Harry V. Shourds \***  
Wildfowl Decoy Carver  
*Seaville, NJ*

**Chesley Goseyun  
Wilson \***  
Apache Fiddle Maker  
*Tucson, AZ*

## 1990

**Howard Armstrong \***  
African American String  
Band Musician  
*Boston, MA*

**Em Bun \***  
Cambodian Silk Weaver  
*Harrisburg, PA*

**Natividad Cano \***  
Mexican American Mariachi  
Musician  
*Fillmore, CA*

**Giuseppe \* and Raffaella  
DeFranco**  
Southern Italian Musicians  
and Dancers  
*Belleville, NJ*

**Maude Kegg \***  
Ojibwe Storyteller/Craftsperson/  
Tradition Bearer  
*Onamia, MN*

**Kevin Locke \***  
Lakota Flute Player/Singer/  
Dancer/Storyteller  
*Wakpala, SD*

**Marie McDonald \***  
Hawaiian Lei Maker  
*Kamuela, HI*

**Wallace “Wally” McRae**  
Cowboy Poet  
*Forsyth, MT*

**Art Moilanen \***  
Finnish Accordionist  
*Mass City, MI*

**Emilio Rosado \***  
Woodcarver  
*Utado, PR*

**Robert Spicer \***  
Flatfoot and Buckdancer Dancer  
*Dickson, TN*

**Douglas Wallin \***  
Appalachian Ballad Singer  
*Marshall, NC*

## 1991

**Etta Baker \***  
African American Guitarist  
*Morgantown, NC*

**George Blake**  
Native American Craftsman (Hupa-  
Yurok)  
*Hoopa Valley, CA*

**Jack Coen \***  
Irish American Flautist  
*Bronx, NY*

**Rose Frank \***  
Nez Perce Cornhusk Weaver  
*Lapwai, ID*

**Eduardo “Lalo” Guerrero \***  
Mexican American Singer/  
Guitarist/Composer  
*Cathedral City, CA*

**Khamvong Insixiengmai**  
Southeast Asian Lao Singer  
*Fresno, CA*

**Don King \***  
Western Saddlemaker  
*Sheridan, WY*

**Riley “B.B.” King \***  
African American Blues Musician/  
Singer/Bandleader  
*Itta Bena, MS*

**Esther Littlefield \***  
Alaskan Regalia Maker (Tlingit)  
*Sitka, AK*

**Seisho “Harry” Nakasone \***  
Okinawan American Musician  
*Honolulu, HI*

**Irvan Perez \***  
Isleno Singer (Canary Islands)  
*Poydras, LA*

**Morgan Sexton \***  
Appalachian Banjo Player/Singer  
*Linefork, KY*

**Nikitas Tsimouris \***  
Greek American Bagpipe Player  
*Tarpon Springs, FL*

**Gussie Wells \***  
African American Quilter  
*Oakland, CA*

**Arbie Williams \***  
African American Quilter  
*Oakland, CA*

**Melvin Wine \***  
Appalachian Fiddler  
*Copen, WV*

\* Deceased



## 1992

**Francisco Aguabella \***  
Afro-Cuban Drummer  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**Jerry Brown \***  
Potter (southern stoneware tradition)  
*Hamilton, AL*

**Walker Calhoun \***  
Cherokee Musician/Dancer/Teacher  
*Cherokee, NC*

**Clyde Davenport \***  
Appalachian Fiddler  
*Jamestown, TN*

**Belle Deacon \***  
Athabascan Basketmaker  
*Greyling, AK*

**Nora Ezell \***  
African American Quilter  
*Five Points, TN*

**Gerald Hawpetoss \***  
Menominee/Potowatomie Regalia Maker  
*Neopit, WI*

**Fatima Kuinova \***  
Bukharan Jewish Singer  
*Rego Park, NY*

**John Yoshio Naka \***  
Bonsai Sculptor  
*Whittier, CA*

**Marc Savoy**  
Cajun Accordion Player/Builder  
*Eunice, LA*

**Ng Sheung-Chi \***  
Chinese Toissan Muk'yu Folk Singer  
*New York, NY*

**Othar Turner \***  
African American Fife Player  
*Senatobia, MS*

**Tanjore Viswanathan \***  
South Indian Flute Maker  
*Middletown, CT*

## 1993

**Santiago Almeida \***  
Texas-Mexican Conjunto Musician  
*Sunnyside, WA*

**Kenny Baker \***  
Bluegrass Fiddler  
*Cottontown, TN*

**Inez Catalon \***  
French Creole Singer  
*Kaplan, LA*

**Elena \* & Nicholas Charles \***  
Yupik Woodcaver/Maskmaker/  
Skin Sewer  
*Bethel, AK*

**Charles Hankins \***  
Boatbuilder  
*Lavallette, NJ*

**Nalani Kanaka'ole  
& Pualani Kanaka'ole  
Kanahele**  
Hula Masters  
*Hilo, HI*

**Everett Kapayou \***  
Native American Singer  
(Meskwaki)  
*Tama, IA*

**McIntosh County Shouters**  
African American Spiritual/Shout Ensemble  
*St. Simons Island, GA*

**Elmer Miller \***  
Bit and Spur Maker/Silversmith  
*Nampa, ID*

**Jack Owens \***  
Blues Singer/Guitarist  
*Bentonina, MS*

**Mone & Vanxay  
Saenphimmachak**  
Lao Weaver/Needleworker  
and Loom Maker  
*St. Louis, MO*

**Liang-Xing Tang**  
Chinese American Pipa (Lute)  
Player  
*Bayside, NY*

## 1994

**Liz Carroll**  
Irish American Fiddler  
*Mundelein, IL*

**Clarence Fountain \*  
& The Blind Boys of  
Alabama**  
African American  
Gospel Singers  
*Atlanta, GA*

**Mary Mitchell Gabriel \***  
Native American (Passamaquoddy)  
Basketmaker  
*Princeton, ME*

**Johnny Gimble \***  
Western Swing Fiddler  
*Dripping Springs, TX*

**Frances Varos Graves \***  
Hispanic American "Colcha"  
Embroidery  
*Rancho De Taos, NM*

**Violet Hilbert \***  
Native American (Skagit)  
Storyteller/Conservator  
*Ca Conner, WA*

**Sosie Shizuye Matsumoto \***  
Japanese Tea Ceremony Master  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**D.I. Menard \***  
Cajun Musician/Songwriter  
*Erath, LA*

**Simon Shaheen**  
Arab American Oud Player  
*Brooklyn, NY*

**Lily Vorperian**  
Armenian (Marash-Style)  
Embroidery  
*Glendale, CA*

**Elder Roma Wilson \***  
African American Harmonica Player  
*Oxford, MS*

## 1995

**Bao Mo-Li**  
Chinese American  
Jing-Erhu Player  
*Flushing, NY*

**Mary Holiday Black \***  
Navajo Basketmaker  
*Mexican Hat, UT*

**Lyman Enloe \***  
Old-Time Fiddler  
*Lee's Summit, MO*

**Donny Golden**  
Irish American Step Dancer  
*Brooklyn, NY*

**Wayne Henderson**  
Appalachian Luthier, Musician  
*Mouth of Wilson, VA*

**Bea Ellis Hensley \***  
Appalachian Blacksmith  
*Spruce Pine, NC*

**Nathan Jackson**  
Tlingit Alaskan Woodcaver/  
Metalsmith/Dancer  
*Ketchikan, AK*

**Danongan Kalanduyan \***  
Filipino American Kulintang  
Musician  
*South San Francisco, CA*

**Robert Jr. Lockwood \***  
African American Delta Blues  
Singer/Guitarist  
*Cleveland, OH*

**Israel "Cachao" López \***  
Afro-Cuban Bassist, Composer, and  
Bandleader  
*Miami, FL*

**Nellie Star Boy Menard \***  
Lakota Sioux Quiltmaker  
*Rosebud, SD*

**Buck Ramsey \***  
Anglo-American Cowboy Poet,  
Singer  
*Amarillo, TX*



*1994 Fellows  
The Blind Boys of Alabama  
Photo by Tom Pich*

## 1996

- Obo Addy \***  
African (Ghanaian) Master  
Drummer/Leader  
*Portland, OR*
- Betty Pizio Christenson \***  
Ukrainian American Pysanky  
*Suring, WI*
- Paul Dahlin**  
Swedish American Fiddler  
*Minneapolis, MN*
- Juan Gutiérrez**  
Puerto Rican Drummer/Leader  
(Bomba and Plena)  
*New York, NY*
- Solomon \* & Richard \*  
Ho'opii**  
Hawaiian Falsetto Singers/  
Musicians  
*Makawao, HI*
- Will Keys \***  
Anglo-American Banjo Player  
*Gray, TN*
- Joaquin Lujan \***  
Chamorro Blacksmith  
*GME, GU*
- Eva McAdams \***  
Shoshone Crafts/Beadwork  
*Fort Washakie, WY*
- John Mealing \* &  
Cornelius Wright, Jr. \***  
African American Work Songs  
*Birmingham, AL*
- Vernon Owens**  
Anglo-American Potter  
*Seagrove, NC*
- Dolly Spencer \***  
Inupiat Dollmaker  
*Homer, AK*

## 1997

- Edward Babb \***  
"Shout" Band Gospel Trombonist  
& Band Leader  
*Jamaica, NY*
- Charles Brown \***  
West Coast Blues  
Pianist & Composer  
*Berkeley, CA*
- Gladys Leblanc Clark \***  
Acadian (Cajun) Spinner  
& Weaver  
*Duson, LA*
- Georgia Harris \***  
Catawba Potter  
*Atlanta, GA*
- Wen-Yi Hua \***  
Chinese Kunqu Opera Singer  
*Arcadia, CA*
- Ali Akbar Khan \***  
North Indian Sarod Player  
& Raga Composer  
*San Anselmo, CA*
- Ramón José López**  
Santero & Metalsmith  
*Santa Fe, NM*
- Jim \* & Jesse \* McReynolds**  
Bluegrass Musician  
*Gallatin, TN*
- Phong Nguyen**  
Vietnamese Musician/Scholar  
*Kent, OH*
- Hystercine Rankin \***  
African American Quilter  
*Lorman, MS*
- Francis Whitaker \***  
Blacksmith/Ornamental  
Iron Work  
*Carbondale, CO*

## 1998

- Apsara Ensemble**  
Cambodian Musicians & Dancers  
*Fort Washington, MD*
- Eddie Blazonczyk \***  
Polish Polka Musician/Bandleader  
*Bridgeview, IL*
- Bruce Caesar**  
Sac Fox-Pawnee German  
Silversmith  
*Anadarko, OK*
- Dale Calhoun \***  
Boatbuilder (Reelfoot Lake  
Stumpjumper)  
*Tiptonville, TN*
- Antonio De La Rosa \***  
Tejano Conjunto Accordionist  
*Riviera, TX*
- Epstein Brothers \***  
Klezmer Musicians  
*Sarasota, FL*
- Sophia George**  
Yakima Colville Beadwork  
and Regalia  
*Gresham, OR*
- Nadjescha Overgaard \***  
Danish Hardanger Embroidery  
*Kimballton, IA*
- Harilaos Papapostolou \***  
Byzantine Chant, Greek Orthodox  
*Potomac, MD*
- Roebuck "Pops" Staples \***  
Gospel / Blues Musician  
*Dalton, IL*
- Claude "The Fiddler"  
Williams \***  
Jazz Swing Fiddler  
*Kansas City, MO*

## 1999

- Frisner Augustin \***  
Haitian Drummer  
*New York, NY*
- Lila Greengrass  
Blackdeer \***  
Hocak Black Ash Basketmaker,  
Needleworker  
*Black River Falls, WI*
- Shirley Caesar**  
Gospel Singer  
*Durham, NC*
- Alfredo Campos**  
Horeshair Hitcher  
*Federal Way, WA*
- Mary Louise Defender  
Wilson**  
Dakota Hidatsa Traditionalist  
and Storyteller  
*Shields, ND*
- Jimmy "Slyde" Godbolt \***  
African American Tap Dancer  
*Hanson, MA*
- Ulysses "Uly" Goode \***  
Western Mono Basketmaker  
*North Fork, CA*
- Bob Holt \***  
Ozark Fiddler  
*Ava, MO*
- Zakir Hussain**  
North Indian Master Tabla Drummer  
*San Anselmo, CA*
- Elliott "Ellie" Manette \***  
Trinidadian Steel Pan Builder,  
Tuner, Performer  
*Osage, WV*
- Mick Moloney \***  
Irish Musician  
*New York, NY*
- Eudokia Sorochaniuk \***  
Ukrainian Weaver, Textile Artist,  
Embroidery  
*Pennsauken, NJ*
- Ralph Stanley \***  
Master Boatbuilder, (Friendship  
Sloop)  
*Southwest Harbor, ME*



1999 Fellow  
Mick Moloney  
Photo by Tom Pich

\* Deceased

## 2000

**Bounxou Chanthraphone**  
Lao Weaver, Embroiderer  
*Brookland Park, MN*

**Dixie Hummingbirds** \*  
African American Gospel Quartet  
*Philadelphia, PA*

**Felipe García Villamil**  
Afro-Cuban Drummer/Santero  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**José González** \*  
Puerto Rican Hammer Weaver  
*San Sebastián, PR*

**Nettie Jackson** \*  
Klickitat Basketmaker  
*White Swan, WA*

**Santiago Jiménez, Jr**  
Tex-Mex Accordionist/Singer  
*San Antonio, TX*

**Genoa Keawe** \*  
Hawaiian Tto Singer/  
Ukulele Player  
*Honolulu, HI*

**Frankie Manning** \*  
Lindy Hop Dancer Choreographer/  
Innovator  
*Corona, NY*

**Joe Willie “Pinetop” Perkins** \*  
Blues Piano Player  
*La Porte, IN*

**Konstantinos Pilarinos** \*  
Orthodox Byzantine Icon  
Woodcarver  
*Astoria, NY*

**Chris Strachwitz** \*  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Record Producer/Label Founder  
*El Cerrito, CA*

**B. Dorothy Thompson** \*  
Appalachian Weaver  
*Davis, WV*

**Don Walser** \*  
Cowboy & Western Singer/  
Guitarist/Composer  
*Austin, TX*

## 2001

**Celestino Avilés** \*  
Santero  
*Orocovis, PR*

**Mozell Benson** \*  
African American Quilter  
*Opelika, AL*

**Wilson “Boozoo” Chavis** \*  
Zydeco Accordionist  
*Lake Charles, LA*

**Hazel Dickens** \*  
Appalachian Singer  
*Washington, DC*

**Evalena Henry**  
Apache Basketweaver  
Peridot, AZ

**Peter Kyvelos** \*  
Oud Builder  
*Bedford, MA*

**João “João Grande” Olivera Dos Santos**  
Capoeira Angola Master  
*New York, NY*

**Eddie Pennington**  
Thumbpicking Style Guitarist  
*Princeton, KY*

**Qi Shu Fang**  
Peking Opera Performer  
*Woodhaven, NY*

**Seiichi Tanaka**  
Taiko Drummer Dojo Founder  
*San Francisco, CA*

**Dorothy Trumpold** \*  
Rug Weaver  
*High Amana, IA*

**Fred Tsoodle** \*  
Kiowa Sacred Song Leader  
*Mountain View, OK*

**Joseph Wilson** \*  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Folklorist/Advocate/Presenter  
*Fries, VA*

## 2002

**Ralph Blizard** \*  
Old-Time Fiddler  
*Blountville, TN*

**Loren Bommelyn**  
Tolowa Singer, Tradition Bearer,  
Basketmaker  
*Crescent City, CA*

**Kevin Burke**  
Irish Fiddler  
*Portland, OR*

**Francis \* & Rose Cree** \*  
Ojibwa Basketmakers/Storytellers  
*Dunseith, ND*

**Luderin Darbone \*/  
Edwin Duhon** \*  
Cajun Fiddler and Accordionist  
*Sulphur/Westlake, LA*

**Nadim Dlaikan**  
Lebanese Nye (Reed Flute) Player  
*Southgate, MI*

**David “Honeyboy” Edwards** \*  
Delta Blues Guitarist/Singer  
*Chicago, IL*

**Flory Jagoda** \*  
Sephardic Musician/Composer  
*Alexandria, VA*

**Losang Samten**  
Tibetan Sand Mandala Painter  
*Philadelphia, PA*

**Bob McQuillen** \*  
Contra Dance Musician Composer  
*Peterborough, NH*

**Clara Neptune Keezer** \*  
Passamaquoddy Basketmaker  
*Perry, ME*

**Jean Ritchie** \*  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Appalachian Singer/Songwriter  
Dulcimer Player  
*Port Washington, NY*

**Domingo “Mingo” Saldívar**  
Conjunto Accordionist  
*San Antonio, TX*

## 2003

BASQUE “BERTSOLARI” POETS  
**Jesus Arriada**  
*San Francisco, CA*

**Johnny Curutchet**  
*South San Francisco, CA*

**Martin Goicoechea**  
*Rock Springs, WY*

**Jesus Goni**  
*Reno, NV*

**Rosa Elene Egipciano** \*  
Puerto Rican Bobbin Lace  
“Mundillo”  
*New York, NY*

**Agnes Oshanee Kenmille** \*  
Salish Beadwork and Tanning  
*Ronan, MT*

**Norman Kennedy**  
Weaver/Ballad Singer  
*Marshfield, VT*

**Roberto \* & Lorenzo Martinez**  
Hispanic Guitarist & Violinist  
*Albuquerque, NM*

**Norma Miller** \*  
African American Jazz Dancer,  
Choreographer  
*Cape Coral, FL*

**Carmencristina Moreno**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Mexican American Singer,  
Composer, Teacher  
*Fresno, CA*

**Ron Poast**  
Hardanger Fiddle Luthier  
and Player  
*Black Earth, WI*

**Felipe I. & Joseph K. Ruak**  
Carolinian Stick Dance Leaders  
*Saipan, MP*

**Manoochehr Sadeghi**  
Persian Santour Player  
*Sherman Oaks, CA*

**Nicholas Toth**  
Diving Helmet Builder  
*Tarpon Springs, FL*

## 2004

**Anjani Ambegaokar \***  
Kathak Dancer  
*Diamond Bar, CA*

**Charles “Chuck” T. Campbell**  
Gospel Steel Guitarist  
*Rochester, NY*

**Joe Derrane \***  
Irish American Button Accordionist  
*Randolph, MA*

**Jerry Douglas**  
Dobro Player  
*Nashville, TN*

**Gerald Subiyay Miller \***  
Skokomish Tradition Bearer  
*Shelton, WA*

**Milan Opacich \***  
Tamburitza Instrument Maker  
*Schererville, IN*

**Eliseo & Paula Rodriguez \***  
Straw Applique Artists  
*Santa Fe, NM*

**Koko Taylor \***  
Blues Musician  
*Country Club Hills, IL*

**Yuqin Wang & Zhengli Xu**  
Chinese Rod Puppeteers  
*Tigard, OR*

**Chum Ngek**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Cambodian Musician and Teacher  
*Gaithersburg, MD*

## 2005

**Herminia Albarrán Romero**  
Paper-Cutting Artist  
*San Francisco, CA*

**Eldrid Skjold Arntzen \***  
Norwegian American Rosemaler  
*Watertown, CT*

**Earl Barthé \***  
Decorative Building Craftsman  
*New Orleans, LA*

**Chuck Brown \***  
African American  
Musical Innovator  
*Brandywine, MD*

**Janette Carter \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Appalachian Musician, Advocate  
*Hiltons, VA*

**Michael Doucet**  
Cajun Fiddler, Composer,  
and Band Leader  
*Lafayette, LA*

**Jerry Grcevich**  
Tamburitza Musician,  
Prim Player  
*North Huntingdon, PA*

**Grace Henderson Nez \***  
Navajo Weaver  
*Ganado, AZ*

**Wanda Jackson**  
Early Country, Rockabilly, and  
Gospel Singer  
*Oklahoma City, OK*

**Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman \***  
Yiddish Singer, Poet, Songwriter  
*Bronx, NY*

**Albertina Walker \***  
Gospel Singer  
*Chicago, IL*

**James Ka'upena Wong \***  
Hawaiian Chanter  
*Waianae, HI*

## 2006

**Charles M. Carrillo**  
Santero (Carver and Painter of  
Sacred Figures)  
*Santa Fe, NM*

**Delores E. Churchill**  
Haida (Native Alaskan) Weaver  
*Ketchikan, AK*

**Henry Gray \***  
Blues Piano Player, Singer  
*Baton Rouge, LA*

**Doyle Lawson**  
Gospel and Bluegrass Singer,  
Arranger, and Bandleader  
*Bristol, TN*

**Esther Martinez \***  
Native American Linguist  
and Storyteller  
*San Juan Pueblo, NM*

**Diomedes Matos**  
Cuatro (10-String Puerto  
Rican Guitar) Maker  
*Deltona, FL*

**George Na'ope \***  
Kumu Hula (Hula Master)  
*Hilo, HI*

**Wilho Saari \***  
Finnish Kantele  
(Lap-Harp) Player  
*Naselle, WA*

**Mavis Staples**  
Gospel, Rhythm and Blues Singer  
*Chicago, IL*

**Nancy Sweezy \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Advocate, Scholar, Presenter, and  
Preservationist  
*Lexington, MA*

**Treme Brass Band**  
New Orleans Brass Band  
*New Orleans, LA*



2006 Fellow  
Mavis Staples  
Photo by Tom Pich

## 2007

**Nicholas Benson**  
Stone Letter Carver and  
Calligrapher  
*Newport, RI*

**Sidiki Conde**  
Guinean Dancer and Musician  
*New York, NY*

**Violet De Cristoforo \***  
Haiku Poet And Historian  
*Salinas, CA*

**Roland Freeman \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Photo Documentarian, Author, and  
Exhibit Curator  
*Washington, DC*

**Pat Courtney Gold \***  
Wasco Sally Bag Weaver  
*Scappoose, OR*

**Eddie Kamae \***  
Hawaiian Musician, Composer,  
Filmmaker  
*Honolulu, HI*

**Agustin Lira**  
Chicano Singer, Musician,  
Composer  
*Fresno, CA*

**Julia Parker**  
Kashia Pomo Basketmaker  
*Midpines, CA*

**Mary Jane Queen \***  
Appalachian Musician  
*Cullowhee, NC*

**Joe Thompson \***  
African American String  
Band Musician  
Mebane, NC

**Irvin L. Trujillo**  
Rio Grande Weaver  
*Chimayo, NM*

**Elaine Hoffman Watts \***  
Klezmer Musician  
*Havertown, PA*

\* Deceased

## 2008

**Horace P. Axtell \***  
Nez Perce Elder, Spiritual Leader,  
and Drum Maker  
*Lewiston, ID*

**Dale Harwood**  
Saddlemaker  
*Shelley, ID*

**Bettye Kimbrell \***  
Quilter  
*Mt. Olive, AL*

**Jeronimo E. Lozano \***  
Retablo Maker  
*Salt Lake City, UT*

**Walter Murray Chiesa \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Traditional Crafts Advocate  
*Bayamón, PR*

**Oneida Hymn Singers  
Of Wisconsin**  
Hymn Singing  
*Oneida, WI*

**Sue Yeon Park**  
Korean Dancer and Musician  
*New York, NY*

**Moges Seyoum**  
Ethiopian Church Musician  
*Alexandria, VA*

**Jelon Vieira**  
Capoeira Master  
*New York, NY*

**Michael G. White**  
Jazz Clarinetist, Band Leader,  
Scholar  
*New Orleans, LA*

**Mac Wiseman \***  
Bluegrass and Country Singer and  
Musician  
*Nashville, TN*

## 2009

**The Birmingham  
Sunlights**  
A Cappella Gospel Group  
*Birmingham, AL*

**Edwin Colón Zayas**  
Cuatro Player  
*Orocovis, PR*

**Chitresh Das \***  
Kathak Dancer and Choreographer  
*San Francisco, CA*

**Leroy Graber \***  
German Russian Willow  
Basketmaker  
*Freeman, SD*

**“Queen” Ida Guillory**  
Zydeco Musician  
*Daly City, CA*

**Dudley Laufman**  
Dance Caller and Musician  
*Cantebury, NH*

**Amma D. McKen**  
Yoruba Orisha Singer  
*Brooklyn, NY*

**Joel Nelson**  
Cowboy Poet  
*Alpine, TX*

**Teri Rofkar \***  
Tlingit Weaver and Basketmaker  
*Sitka, AK*

**Mike Seeger \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Musician, Cultural Scholar,  
and Advocate  
*Lexington, VA*

**Sophiline Cheam  
Shapiro**  
Cambodian Classical Dancer  
and Choreographer  
*Long Beach, CA*

## 2010

**Yacub Addy \***  
Ghanaian Drum Master  
*Latham, NY*

**Jim “Texas Shorty”  
Chancellor**  
Fiddler  
*Rockwall, TX*

**Gladys Kukana Grace \***  
Lauhala (Palm Leaf) Weaver  
*Honolulu, HI*

**Mary Jackson**  
Sweetgrass Basketweaver  
*Johns Island, SC*

**Del McCoury**  
Bluegrass Guitarist and Singer  
*Hendersonville, TN*

**Judith McCulloh \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Folklorist and Editor  
*Urbana, IL*

**Kamala Lakshmi  
Narayanan**  
Bharatanatyam Indian Dancer  
*Mastic, NY*

**Mike Rafferty \***  
Irish Flute Player  
*Hasbrouck Heights, NJ*

**Ezequiel Torres**  
Afro-Cuban Drummer and  
Drum Builder  
*Miami, FL*

## 2011

**Laverne Brackens**  
Quilter  
*Fairfield, TX*

**Bo Dollis \***  
Mardi Gras Indian Chief  
*New Orleans, LA*

**Jim Griffith \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Folklorist  
*Tucson, AZ*

**Roy and Pj Hirabayashi**  
Taiko Drum Leaders  
*San Jose, CA*

**Ledward Kaapana**  
Slack Key Guitarist  
*Kaneohe, HI*

**Frank Newsome**  
Old Regular Baptist Singer  
*Haysi, VA*

**Carlinhos Pandeiro  
De Ouro**  
Frame Drum Player and  
Percussionist  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**Warner Williams \***  
Piedmont Blues Songster  
*Gaithersburg, MD*

**Yuri Yunakov**  
Bulgarian Saxophonist  
*Bloomfield, NJ*



2011 Fellow  
**Ledward Kaapana**  
Photo by Michael G. Stewart

## 2012

**Mike Auldridge \***  
Dobro Player  
*Silver Spring, MD*

**Paul \* & Darlene Bergren \***  
Dog Sled and Snowshoe  
Designers and Builders  
*Minot, ND*

**Harold A. Burnham**  
Master Shipwright  
*Essex, MA*

**Albert B. Head**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Traditional Arts Advocate  
*Montgomery, AL*

**Leonardo “Flaco” Jimenez**  
Tejano Accordion Player  
*San Antonio, TX*

**Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone \***  
Okinawan Dancer  
*Honolulu, HI*

**Molly Jeannette  
Neptune Parker \***  
Passamaquoddy Basket Maker  
*Princeton, ME*

**The Paschall Brothers**  
Tidewater Gospel Quartet  
*Chesapeake, VA*

**Andy Statman**  
Klezmer Clarinetist, Mandolinist,  
and Composer  
*Brooklyn, NY*

## 2013

**Sheila Kay Adams**  
Ballad Singer, Musician,  
& Storyteller  
*Marshall, NC*

**Ralph Burns**  
Storyteller, Pyramid Lake  
Paiute Tribe  
*Nixon, NV*

**Verónica Castillo**  
Ceramicist & Clay Sculptor  
*San Antonio, TX*

**Séamus Connolly**  
Irish Fiddler  
*North Yarmouth, ME*

**Nicolae Feraru**  
Cimbalom Player  
*Chicago, IL*

**Carol Fran \***  
Swamp Blues Singer & Pianist  
*Lafayette, LA*

**Pauline Hillaire \***  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Tradition Bearer, Lummi Tribe  
*Bellingham, WA*

**David Ivey**  
Sacred Harp Hymn Singer  
*Huntsville, AL*

**Ramón “Chunky”  
Sánchez \***  
Chicano Musician &  
Culture Bearer  
*San Diego, CA*

## 2014

**Henry Arquette \***  
Mohawk Basketmaker  
*Hogansburg, NY*

**Manuel “Cowboy”  
Donley \***  
Tejano Musician and Singer  
*Austin, TX*

**Kevin Doyle**  
Irish Step Dancer  
*Barrington, RI*

THE HOLMES BROTHERS  
**Sherman Holmes  
Wendell Holmes \***  
**Popsy Dixon \***  
Blues, Gospel, and Rhythm and  
Blues Band  
*Rosedale, Md  
Saluda, VA*

**Yvonne Walker Keshick**  
Odawa Quillworker  
*Petoskey, MI*

**Carolyn Mazloomi**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Quilting Community Advocate  
*West Chester, OH*

**Vera Nakonechny**  
Ukrainian Embroiderer, Weaver  
and Beadworker  
*Philadelphia, PA*

**Singing and Praying Bands  
of MD and DE**  
African American Religious Singers  
*Maryland and Delaware*

**Rufus White**  
Omaha Traditional Singer  
and Drum Group Leader  
*Walthill, NE*

## 2015

**Rahim AlHaj**  
Oud Player & Composer  
*Albuquerque, NM*

**Michael Alpert**  
Yiddish Musician and  
Tradition Bearer  
*New York, NY*

**Mary Lee Bendolph,  
Lucy Mingo, and  
Loretta Pettway**  
Quilters of Gee’s Bend  
*Bojkin, AL*

**Dolly Jacobs**  
Circus Aerialist  
*Sarasota, FL*

**Yary Livan**  
Cambodian Ceramicist  
*Lowell, MA*

**Daniel Sheehy**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Ethnomusicologist/Folklorist  
*Falls Church, VA*

**Drink Small**  
Blues Artist  
*Columbia, SC*

**Gertrude Yukie  
Tsutsumi**  
Japanese Classical Dancer  
*Honolulu, HI*

**Sidonka Wadina**  
Slovak Straw Artist/Egg Decorator  
*Lyons, WI*



2012 Fellows  
Paul and Darlene Bergren  
Photo by Michael G. Stewart

\* Deceased

## 2016

**Bryan Akipa**  
Dakota Flute Maker and Player  
*Sisseton, SD*

**Joseph Pierre “Big Chief Monk” Boudreaux**  
Mardi Gras Indian Craftsman  
and Musician  
*New Orleans, LA*

**Billy McComiskey**  
Irish Button Accordionist  
Baltimore, MD

**Artemio Posadas**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Master Huastecan Son Musician  
and Advocate  
*San Jose, CA*

**Clarissa Rizal \***  
Tlingit Ceremonial  
Regalia Maker  
*Juneau, AK*

**Theresa Secord**  
Penobscot Nation Ash/Sweetgrass  
Basketmaker  
*Waterville, ME*

**Bounxeung Synanonh**  
Laotian Khaen (free-reed mouth  
organ) Player  
*Fresno, CA*

**Michael Vlahovich**  
Master Shipwright  
*Tacoma, WA/St. Michaels, MD*

**Leona Waddell**  
White Oak Basketmaker  
*Cecilia, KY*

## 2017

**Norik Astvatsaturov \***  
Armenian Repoussé Metal Artist  
*Wahpeton, ND*

**Anna Brown Ehlers**  
Chilkat Weaver  
*Juneau, AK*

**Modesto Cepeda**  
Bomba and Plena Musician  
*San Juan, PR*

**Ella Jenkins**  
Children’s Folk Singer  
and Musician  
*Chicago, IL*

**Dwight Lamb**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Danish Button Accordionist and  
Missouri-Style Fiddler  
*Onawa, IA*

**Thomas Maupin**  
Old-time Buckdancer  
*Murfreesboro, TN*

**Cyril Pahinui \***  
Hawaiian Slack-key Guitarist,  
*Waipahu, HI*

**Phil Wiggins \***  
Acoustic Blues Harmonica Player  
*Takoma Park, MD*

**Eva Ybarra**  
Conjunto Accordionist and  
Band Leader  
*San Antonio, TX*

## 2018

**Feryal Abbasi-Ghnaim**  
Palestinian Embroiderer  
*Milwaukie, OR*

**Eddie Bond**  
Appalachian Old-Time Fiddler  
*Fries, VA*

**Kelly Church**  
Anishnabe (Gun Lake Band) Black  
Ash Basketmaker  
*Allegan, MI*

**Marion Coleman \***  
African American Quilter  
*Castro Valley, CA*

**Manuel Cuevas**  
Rodeo Tailor  
*Nashville, TN*

**Ofelia Esparza**  
Chicana Altarista (Day of the Dead  
Altar Maker)  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**Barbara Lynn**  
R&B Musician  
*Beaumont, TX*

**Ethel Raim**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Traditional Music and Dance  
Advocate  
*New York, NY*

**Don & Cindy Roy**  
Franco-American Musicians  
*Gorham, ME*

## 2019

**Dan Ansotegui**  
Basque Musician and Tradition  
Bearer  
*Boise, ID*

**Grant Bulltail \***  
Crow Storyteller  
*Crow Agency, MT*

**Bob Fulcher**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Folklorist and State Park Manager  
*Clinton, TN*

**Linda Goss**  
African American Storyteller  
*Baltimore, MD*

**James F. Jackson**  
Leatherworker  
*Sheridan, WY*

**Balla Kouyaté**  
Balafon Player and Djeli  
*Medford, MA*

**Josephine Lobato**  
Spanish Colcha Embroiderer  
*Westminster, CO*

**Rich Smoker**  
Decoy Carver  
*Marion Station, MD*

LAS TESOROS DE SAN ANTONIO  
**Beatriz (La Paloma del Norte) Llamas \*** and  
**Blanquita (Blanca Rosa) Rodríguez**  
Tejano Singers  
*San Antonio, TX*



*Anishnabe Treaty  
Hat by 2018 Fellow  
Kelly Church  
Photo by Richard Church*

## 2020

**William Bell**  
Soul Singer and Songwriter  
*Atlanta, GA*

**Onnik Dinkjian**  
Armenian Folk and Liturgical Singer  
*Fort Lee, NJ*

**Zakarya \* and Naomi Diouf**  
West African Diasporic Dancers  
*Oakland/Castro Valley, CA*

**Karen Ann Hoffman (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin)**  
Haudenosaunee Raised Beadworker  
*Stevens Point, WI*

**Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de la Ladrillera**  
Traditional Religious Dancers  
*Laredo, TX*

**Hugo N. Morales**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Radio Producer and Network Builder  
*Fresno, CA*

**John Morris**  
Old-Time Fiddler and Banjo Player  
*Ivydale, WV*

**Suni Paz**  
Nueva Canción Singer and Songwriter  
*Henderson, NV*

**Wayne Valliere (Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe)**  
Birchbark Canoe Builder  
*Waaswaaganing (Lac du Flambeau, WI)*

## 2021

**Cedric Burnside**  
Hill Country Blues Musician  
*Ashland, MS*

**Tom Davenport**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Filmmaker, Documentarian, and Media Curator  
*Delaplane, VA*

**Tagumpay Mendoza De Leon**  
Rondalla Musician  
*Burbank, CA*

**Anita Fields (Osage/Muscogee)**  
Osage Ribbon Worker  
*Tulsa, OK*

**Los Lobos**  
Mexican American Band  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**Joanie Madden**  
Irish Flute Player  
*Yonkers, NY*

**Reginald “Reggio the Hooper” McLaughlin**  
Tap Dancer  
*Chicago, IL*

**Nellie Vera**  
Mundillo Master Weaver  
*Moca, Puerto Rico*

**Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble**  
Easter Rock Spiritual Ensemble  
*Winnsboro, LA*

## 2022

**Michael Cleveland**  
Bluegrass Fiddler  
*Charlestown, IN*

**Eva Enciñas**  
Flamenco Artist  
*Albuquerque, NM*

**Excelsior Band**  
Brass Band Musicians  
*Mobile, AL*

**Stanley Jacobs**  
Quelbe Flute Player and Bandleader  
*St. Croix, VI*

**The Legendary Ingramettes**  
Gospel Artists  
*Richmond, Virginia*

**TahNibaa Naataanii (Navajo/Diné)**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Navajo/Diné Textile Artist and Weaver  
*Shiprock, NM*

**Francis P. Sinenci**  
Master Hawaiian Hale Builder  
*Hāna, HI*

**Tsering Wangmo Satho**  
Tibetan Opera Singer & Dancer  
*Richmond, CA*

**C. Brian Williams**  
Step Artist and Producer  
*Washington, DC*

**Shaka Zulu**  
New Orleans Black Masking Craftsman, Stilt Dancer, and Musician  
*New Orleans, LA*

## 2023

**R.L. Boyce \***  
Hill Country Blues Musician  
*Como, Mississippi*

**Ed Eugene Carriere (Suquamish)**  
Suquamish Basketmaker  
*Indianola, Washington*

**Michael A. Cummings**  
African American Quilter  
*New York, New York*

**Joe DeLeon “Little Joe” Hernández**  
Tejano Music Performer  
*Temple, Texas*

**Roen Hufford**  
Kapa Maker  
*Waimea, Hawai‘i*

**Elizabeth James-Perry (Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah)**  
Wampum & Fiber Artist  
*Dartmouth, Massachusetts*

**Nick Spitzer**  
BESS LOMAX HAWES AWARD  
Folklife Presenter, Educator, and Radio Producer  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

**Luis Tapia**  
Sculptor, Hispano Woodcarving Tradition  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

**Wu Man**  
Pipa Player  
*Carlsbad, California*



*Mundillo lace by  
2021 Fellow  
Nellie Vera*

Photo courtesy of Hypothetical Films

\* Deceased



# Submit an NEA National Heritage Fellowship Nomination

The NEA National Heritage Fellowship is the nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts. Each year since 1982, the program has recognized folk and traditional artists whose exemplary achievements contribute to our nation's distinctive cultural heritage, increasing opportunities for the public to encounter different artists, art forms, and cultural traditions.

Through their folk and traditional arts practices, National Heritage Fellows demonstrate the importance of the arts to personal, cultural, and national identity and reflect the benefits that artful lives contribute to the well-being of individuals and their communities.

Annually, the NEA awards at least nine National Heritage Fellowships, including one Bess Lomax Hawes Fellowship. The Hawes Fellowship recognizes an individual who has made major contributions to the excellence, vitality, and public appreciation of the folk and traditional arts.

National Heritage Fellowship nominees must be worthy of national recognition and have a record of continuing artistic accomplishment. They must be actively participating in their art form, either as practitioners, mentors, or as community scholars. Successful nominations demonstrate significant contributions to living traditional arts, their source communities, and/or the transmission of traditional knowledge to future generations.

Awards for the National Heritage Fellowships (including the Bess Lomax Hawes Fellowship) will be up to \$25,000, and may be received once in a lifetime. Nomination deadlines are generally in May of each year. Nominations remain active for a total of four years.

Visit [arts.gov/honors/heritage](https://arts.gov/honors/heritage) for more information.





---

Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit **arts.gov** to learn more.



*Monkey Chariot carving  
by Todd Goings at the  
Staten Island Carousel*

Photo by Todd W. Goings for  
Carousels and Carvings, Inc.

# 2024 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellows



**Bril Barrett**  
TAP DANCER

Photo by Maia Rosenfield



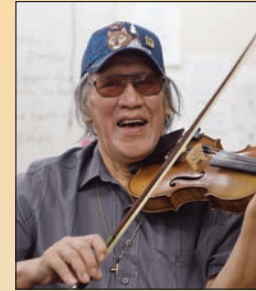
**Fabian Debora**  
CHICANO MURALIST

Photo by Eddie Ruvalcaba



**Rosie Flores**  
ROCKABILLY AND COUNTRY  
MUSICIAN

Photo by Leslie Campbell



**Trimble Gilbert**  
(Gwich'in)  
GWICH'IN FIDDLER

Photo by Alex Troutman of  
Channel Films



**Todd Goings**  
CAROUSEL CARVER AND  
RESTORATIONIST

Photo by Kyle C. Goings for Carousel  
and Carvings, Inc.



**Susan Hudson**  
(Navajo/Diné)  
QUILTER

Photo courtesy of artist



**Pat Johnson**  
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND  
ORGANIZER

Photo by Lauren Adams Willette



**June Kuramoto**  
KOTO MUSICIAN

Photo by Jaimee Itagaki



**Sochietah Ung**  
CAMBODIAN COSTUME  
MAKER AND DANCER

Photo by Pat Jarrett of the Virginia  
Folklife Program



**Zuni Olla Maidens**  
ZUNI TRADITIONAL DANCERS

Photo courtesy of NCTA Archives

**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**  
arts.gov