



The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400
www.arts.gov

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Contact: Victoria Hutter, hutterv@arts.gov 202-682-5692

White House Announces 2009 National Medal of Arts Recipients
Presidential initiative is managed by the National Endowment for the Arts

Washington, D.C. -- President Barack Obama today presented the National Medal of Arts to ten recipients for their outstanding achievements and support of the arts. (Twelve medalists were announced; however two were not able to attend the ceremony. Their medals will be presented at another time.) The medals were presented by the president and Mrs. Michele Obama in an East Room ceremony at the White House. The National Medal of Arts is a White House initiative managed by the National Endowment for the Arts. Each year, the NEA organizes and oversees the National Medal of Arts nomination process and notifies the artists of their selection to receive a medal, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

"These individuals and organizations show us how many ways art works every day. They represent the breadth and depth of American architecture, design, film, music, performance, theatre, and visual art," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "This lifetime honor recognizes their exceptional contributions, and I join the President and the country in saluting them."

The 2009 National Medal of Arts Recipients

Individuals

Bob Dylan, *Singer, Songwriter*
Clint Eastwood, *Director, Actor*
Milton Glaser, *Graphic Designer*
Maya Lin, *Architect, Sculptor*
Rita Moreno, *Singer, Dancer, Actress*
Jessye Norman, *Soprano*
Joseph P. Riley, Jr., *Arts Patron, Design Advocate*
Frank Stella, *Painter, Sculptor*
Michael Tilson Thomas, *Conductor*
John Williams, *Composer, Conductor*

Place of Birth

Duluth, MN (Not able to attend.)
San Francisco, CA (Not able to attend.)
New York, NY
Athens, OH
Humacao, Puerto Rico
Augusta, GA
Charleston, SC
Malden, MA
Los Angeles, CA
Queens, NY

Organizations

The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, *Conservatory*, Oberlin, OH
The School of American Ballet, *Ballet School*, New York, NY

The National Medal of Arts, established by Congress in 1984, is awarded by the President and managed by the National Endowment for the Arts. Award recipients are selected based on their contributions to the creation, growth, and support of the arts in the United States. Each year, the Arts Endowment seeks nominations from individuals and organizations across the country. The National Council on the Arts, the Arts Endowment's presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed advisory body, reviews the nominations and provides recommendations to the President, who selects the recipients.

The National Endowment for the Arts gratefully acknowledges The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for its support of the 2009 National Medal of Arts.

Please see [additional information on the National Medal of Arts](#) on the NEA web site.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.