
John E. Frohnmayer
MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL CONCERNED
FROM: JOHN E. FROHNMAEYER, CHAIRMAN
DATE: OCTOBER 23, 1989
SUBJECT: 1990 NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

It is my pleasure to invite you to submit names of individual artists, arts organizations, arts professionals, institutions and patrons for the National Medal of Arts. The President awards up to 12 Medals each year. The Medal represents the pinnacle of artistic achievement, dedication and support. Recipients, as described in the 1984 legislation, must be:

"... individuals or groups who ... are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States." The Medal is available to United States citizens, although aliens, lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence who have filed applications for naturalization are also eligible. A group may be awarded the Medal only if it is organized or incorporated in the United States.

In past years, the Medal has been awarded to such luminaries as Martha Graham, Aaron Copland, Georgia O'Keeffe, Robert Penn Warren, Leontyne Price and Helen Hayes, as well as patrons such as Dominique de Menil, Paul Mellon, Seymour H. Knox, and Hallmark Cards.

The Medals are presented by President Bush at a White House ceremony which is hosted by the President and the First Lady; other events associated with this recognition include a dinner and a congressional reception.

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I encourage all interested citizens to nominate candidates for consideration. A committee of members from the National Council on the Arts will review the nominations prior to submission of their recommendations to the White House.

More than one nomination can be submitted by an individual or organization, but each nomination must be accompanied by a separate nomination form (attached). We also request a brief, but descriptive biography or chronicle of the nominee's accomplishments. The deadline for receiving nominations is December 7, 1989. Should you wish to renew a nomination made in a previous year, please fill out the 1990 form and send it to the address shown below. Any questions should be addressed to my Special Assistant, Jeanne Rhinelander, who may be reached at 202/682-5759.

This is an opportunity both for tribute to those who have excelled and for recognition of the arts generally. I hope to hear from you.

Nominations should be sent to:

National Medal of Arts  
Office of the Special Assistant  
to the Chairman  
National Endowment for the Arts - Room 528  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC  20506

(More)