

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts
(1994)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts
and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996)

July 2016

Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994): Speech 41

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_14

Recommended Citation

"Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994): Speech 41" (2016). *Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994)*. Paper 46.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_14/46https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_14/46

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Briefing Book: National Endowment for the Arts (1994) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

Support for Individuals

While no government can call a great artist or scholar into existence, it is necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to create and sustain not only a climate encouraging freedom of thought, imagination, and inquiry, but also the material conditions facilitating the release of this creative talent.

With this mandate from the enabling legislation of the Arts Endowment, the agency has been offering support to individual artists from its inception. In 1966, the Endowment made its first awards to individuals in the form of one-year sabbaticals to 50 novelists, poets, painters, sculptors, and composers. Since then, over 11,000 artists have received grants, often at a crucial point early in their careers. The ranks of Arts Endowment fellows include many of the very best artists working in the United States over the past generation. They have won dozens of awards, including 42 Pulitzer Prizes, 47 MacArthur "genius awards," 28 National Book Awards, 11 Obie Awards for Theater, and many other distinctions.

More important than the awards and accolades has been the creativity that these fellows have helped engender: scores of symphonies, operas and songs; reams of poems, short stories, dramas and novels; a spate of new dance from modern to folk to ballet. Reels of new films and videos have been created, and new radio and television programs have filled the airways and made their way into millions of homes, schools, and libraries. New painting, sculpture, photography, crafts, and design have come forth from the imagination of a generation.

Among the many distinguished artists who have received Endowment support are: choreographers Alvin Ailey, Merce Cunningham, Meredith Monk, Mark Morris, Alwin Nikolais, Paul Taylor and Twyla Tharp; composers Dominick Argento, Philip Glass, Ned Rorem and Pauline Oliveros; musicians Ellis, Delfeayo and Wynton Marsalis, David Baker, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Dexter Gordon and Emma Kemp; playwrights Wendy Wasserstein and A.R. Gurney; writers Annie Dillard, John Irving, Louise Erdrich, Bobbie Ann Mason, William Kennedy, Rita Dove, Oscar Hijuelos, and Alice Walker; visual artists Laurie Anderson, Dale Chihuly, Chuck Close, Lee Friedlander, Martin Puryear, and William Wegman; designers Frank Gehry and Susana Torre; filmmakers Barbara Kopple and Wayne Wong.

Programs which offer direct grants for individuals

Dance	Media Arts
Design Arts	Music
Folk Arts (Heritage Fellows)	Opera-Musical Theater
International	Theater
Literature	Visual Arts