



ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, Americans for the Arts presents awards to honor those who have demonstrated their commitment to building communities through the arts. Awards fall into three categories:

Americans for the Arts Annual Awards, recognizing leaders in the field;

National Arts Awards, recognizing high-profile artists and philanthropists; and

National Public Leadership in the Arts Awards, recognizing public officials.

National Award for Public Leadership in the Arts

The National Awards for Public Leadership in the Arts are given in recognition of elected officials whose role in advancement of the arts and arts education within his or her communities and whose vision and leadership provide exemplary and heightened visibility to the value of the arts. They are the highest level awards Americans for the Arts makes to a public official.

- Congressional Arts Leadership
- Governors Arts Leadership
- Lieutenant Governors Arts Leadership
- State Legislature Arts Leadership
- Local Arts Leadership
- County Arts Leadership

Since 1997, Americans for the Arts have partnered with the United States Conference of Mayors to present these awards in recognition of, and to give voice to the intrinsic role and critical contributions that cities and urban communities play in our national life as centers of arts, culture and arts education.

Past Public Leadership in the Arts Honorees by Category:

Congressional Arts Leadership Honorees

- 2006 [Representative Jim Leach \(R-IA\)](#)
- 2005 [Representative Christopher Shays \(R-CT\)](#)
- 2004 [Representative David Obey \(D-WI\)](#)
- 2003 [Senator Thad Cochran \(R-MS\)](#)
- 2002 [Representative Steve Horn \(R-CA\)](#)
- 2001 [Representative Norm Dicks \(D-WA\)](#)
- 2000 [Senator Robert Bennett \(R-UT\)](#)
- 2000 [Representative Nancy Johnson \(R-CT\)](#)
- 1999 [Senator Edward M. Kennedy \(D-MA\)](#)
- 1999 [Representative Michael Castle \(D-DE\)](#)
- 1998 [Representative Louise M. Slaughter \(D-NY\)](#)
- 1998 [Senator Slade Gorton \(R-WA\)](#)
- 1997 [Senator James M. Jeffords \(R-VT\)](#)
- 1997 [Representative Rick Lazio \(R-NY\)](#)

Governor Arts Leadership Honorees

- 2006 [Governor Tom Vilsack \(D-IA\)](#)
- 2005 [Governor Mike Huckabee \(R-AR\)](#)
- 2004 [Governor Edward G. Rendell \(D-PA\)](#)
- 2003 [Governor George Pataki \(R-NY\)](#)
- 2002 [Governor John Engler \(R-MI\)](#)
- 2001 [Governor John G. Rowland \(R-CT\)](#)
- 2000 [Governor Tom Ridge \(R-PA\)](#)
- 1999 [Governor Mel Carnahan \(D-MO\)](#)
- 1998 [Governor Arne H. Carlson \(R-MN\)](#)
- 1997 [Governor Robert Miller \(D-NV\)](#)

Lieutenant Governor Arts Leadership Honorees

- 2006 Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu (D-LA)

State Legislator Arts Leadership Honorees

- 2006 Representative Sheryl Allen (R-UT)

Local Arts Leadership Honorees

- 2006 [Mayor Bill Purcell \(D-Nashville, TN\)](#)
- 2005 [Mayor John Robert Smith \(R-Meridian, MS\)](#)
- 2004 [Mayor Martin O'Malley \(D-Baltimore, MD\)](#)
- 2003 [Mayor Bart Peterson \(D-Indianapolis, IN\)](#)
- 2002 [Mayor Sharpe James \(D-Newark, NJ\)](#)

- 2001 [Mayor Wellington E. Webb \(D-Denver, CO\)](#)
- 2000 [Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. \(D-Providence, RI\)](#)
- 1999 [Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. \(D-Charleston, SC\)](#)
- 1998 [Mayor Marc H. Morial \(D-New Orleans, LA\)](#)
- 1997 [Mayor Richard M. Daley \(D-Chicago, IL\)](#)

County Arts Leadership Honorees

- 2006 [Lackawanna County Commission \(PA\)](#)
- 2005 [Jefferson County Commission \(AL\)](#)
- 2004 [Broward County Board of County Commissioners](#)
- 2003 [Douglas M. Duncan, Montgomery County Executive \(MD\)](#)
- 2002 [Prince George's County Council \(MD\)](#)
- 2001 [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors \(LA\)](#)
- 2000 [County Board Chair Parks Helms \(NC\)](#)
- 1999 Betty Lou Ward, Wake County Commission (NC)

Legendary Artist, Arts Legacy Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Excellence in Arts Programs for Youth Honorees

- 2006 [New Orleans Center for Creative Arts | Riverfront \(NOCCA\)](#)
- 2005 [Peter Yarrow](#)
- 2005 [Mayor Richard M. Daley \(D-Chicago, IL\)](#)
- 2004 [Tony Bennett](#)
- 2004 [Henry Winkler](#)
- 2001 [William Jefferson Clinton](#)
- 2000 [Dr. John Brademas](#)
- 2000 [Harry Belafonte](#)
- 1999 [Rita Moreno](#)
- 1999 [Jane Alexander](#)
- 1998 [Stevie Wonder](#)
- 1998 [Roger L. Stevens](#)
- 1997 [Representative Sidney R. Yates \(D-IL\)](#)