

<http://arts.gov/news/news13/medals2012.html>

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**Contact: NEA Public Affairs, 202-682-5570**

## **President Obama to Award 2012 National Medal of Arts**

*Awards Ceremony will be Live Streamed at [WH.gov/Live](http://WH.gov/Live)*

Washington, DC — On Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at 1:30 p.m., President Barack Obama will present the [National Medal of Arts](#) in conjunction with the National Humanities Medals. The medals will be presented by the President during an East Room ceremony at the White House. First Lady Michelle Obama will also be in attendance. 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.

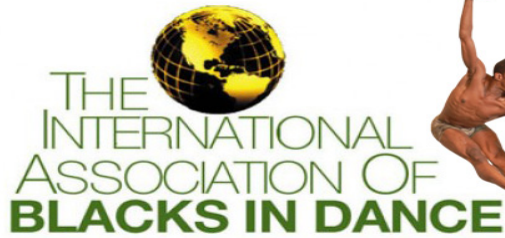
This event will also be **live streamed** at [WH.gov/Live](http://WH.gov/Live) and an archive of the video will be available after the event on the [White House YouTube page](#). NEA Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa said, "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to join the President in honoring and celebrating the American arts community. From landscape design to musicians to writers, these 12 recipients are representative of the breadth and excellence of art that is flourishing in the United States."



The **2012 National Medal of Arts** recipients are:

- § **Herb Alpert**, *Musician and Producer*  
Currently resides in Malibu, California
- § **Lin Arison**, *Arts Patron*  
Currently resides in Bal Harbour, Florida
- § **Joan Myers Brown**, *Dance Instructor*  
Currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- § **Renée Fleming**, *Soprano*  
Currently resides in New York, New York
- § **Ernest Gaines**, *Author*  
Currently resides in Oscar, Louisiana
- § **Ellsworth Kelly**, *Visual Artist*  
Currently resides in Spencertown, New York
- § **Tony Kushner**, *Playwright*  
Currently resides in New York, New York
- § **George Lucas**, *Director and Producer*  
Currently resides in San Anselmo, California
- § **Elaine May**, *Writer, Director, and Performer*  
Currently resides in New York, New York
- § **Laurie Olin**, *Landscape Architect*  
Currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- § **Allen Toussaint**, *Musician and Producer*  
Currently resides in New Orleans, Louisiana
- § **Washington Performing Arts Society**, *Presenter*  
Located in Washington, DC

In addition, author **Marilynne Robinson** is one of the 12 recipients of a 2012 **National Humanities Medal**. Robinson is the author of *Housekeeping*, one of the works of literature that is a part of the NEA's **Big Read**, a program



designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. Other recipients of the 2012 National Humanities Medal includes **Kay Ryan**, former Poet Laureate and recipient of an [NEA Literature Fellowship in Creative Writing](#), and **Anna Deavere Smith**, host of the 2013 [Poetry Out Loud](#) National Finals, a partnership of the NEA, the Poetry Foundation, and the State Arts Agencies which encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems.

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 2012 National Medal of Arts.

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

The **National Endowment for the Arts** was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).