



NEWS AND INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Stars William Baldwin, Marlee Matlin, Harry Shearer and More Join Arts Leaders on Capitol Hill for Arts Advocacy Day, Tuesday, March 20"

Organized by Americans for the Arts, and Sponsored by VH1 Save the Music Foundation and The Robert Sterling Clark Foundation

What:

Americans for the Arts, in collaboration with **The Creative Coalition**, the **Congressional Arts Caucus** and more than 50 co-sponsoring national arts service organizations, brings together entertainment, arts, education and policy leaders on Capitol Hill for **Arts Advocacy Day: The 2001 National Arts Action Summit on Tuesday, March 20, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The critical need for federally funded arts programs for students of every age and all walks of life will be addressed, and grassroots advocates will have the opportunity to shape federal arts policy.

Breakfast Event:

Congressional Arts Breakfast and Youth Arts Day, from 8:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. is the featured event of **Arts Advocacy Day: The 2001 National Arts Action Summit**, organized by **Americans for the Arts**, and sponsored by **VH1 Save the Music Foundation** and **The Robert Sterling Clark Foundation**.

Who:

William Baldwin, president of The Creative Coalition, (*Backdraft* and *Sliver*)

Marlee Matlin ("The West Wing" and *Children of a Lesser God*)

Hector Elizondo ("Chicago Hope," *Runaway Bride* and *Pretty Woman*)

Sharon Lawrence ("NYPD Blue" and "Ladies Man")

Hallie Kate Eisenberg (*The Insider*, *Bicentennial Man* and Pepsi commercials)

Harry Shearer ("Saturday Night Live" and *The Truman Show*)

Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO, Americans for the Arts

William Ivey, chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

Mark Schwab, Binney & Smith CEO

Robert Morrison, executive director, VH1 Save the Music Foundation

Senator James M. Jeffords (R-VT)
Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY)
Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Arts Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

When:

Tuesday, March 20, 8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where:

Cannon House Office Building Independence and New Jersey Avenues, S.W.

Schedule:

8:15 - 9:30 a.m. -- Cannon Caucus Room Foyer

Members of Congress will assist students from Washington, D.C.'s Marie Reed Learning Center and Thompson Elementary School in assembling the **Youth Arts Across America Map** of the United States, which features children's artwork chosen from Binney & Smith's (makers of Crayola) and Americans for the Arts' "Crayola Color the States" contest. The completed map will be unveiled at 9:30 a.m. in the Cannon Caucus Room.

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. -- Cannon Caucus Room

Robert Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, will host a breakfast showcasing the Woodstock SPEAKCHORUS of Vermont, Michelle Rivers courtesy of VSA arts, Emily Krieger courtesy of the Educational Theatre Association and art flags courtesy of Council for Art Education. National Endowment for the Arts Chairman **William Ivey**, Binney & Smith CEO **Mark Schwab**, VH1 Save the Music Foundation Executive Director **Robert Morrison** and members of Congress will speak out on youth arts issues, and celebrities on hand will include **William Baldwin, Marlee Matlin, Hector Elizondo, Sharon Lawrence, Hallie Kate Eisenberg** and others.

10:00 - 10:45 a.m. -- Cannon Caucus Room

Actor **Harry Shearer** will moderate the arts education panel, "It Starts With The Arts," featuring National Endowment for the Arts Chairman **William Ivey**; The Creative Coalition President **William Baldwin**; and Alliance of Young Artists and Writers' Top Art Scholarship winner **Sul-Jee Scully** of Towson, MD. **Americans for the Arts** and **The Creative Coalition** are sponsors of the panel.

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. -- Capitol Hill

Arts Advocacy Day registrants and celebrities will make Congressional visits (based on pre-scheduled appointments). Press coverage of these visits is not permitted.

Equipment:

Still and video photography permitted during the map assembly, breakfast event and panel only. All equipment must be battery-operated. Please call for more information.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of more than 50 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

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