



NEWS AND INFORMATION

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Americans for the Arts Presents National Award for Leadership in United Arts Fundraising to Westchester, NY Arts Leader

PORTLAND, OR —Americans for the Arts today presented the 2003 Michael Newton Award to Janet T. Langsam, Executive Director of the Westchester Arts Council, the largest private arts council in New York State, at its annual meeting in Portland, OR. The Michael Newton Award recognizes exemplary leadership skills and extraordinary dedication to supporting the arts through a united arts fund, which is a combined effort of agencies to raise money on behalf of separate arts institutions in the community.

“In her long and distinguished career in arts management, Janet has moved from positions in government leadership and cultural facility management to running a local arts agency and united arts fund,” said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “Her passion for making the arts available to all of her community’s citizens, along with her ability to recognize and seize opportunities for new funding and growth, makes her one of the most effective local arts leaders in the country.”

Langsam, herself a painter, is overseeing the Arts Council’s first-ever capital and endowment campaign to ensure that art and culture remain a vital part of the Westchester community for years to come. She has spent 25 years working in both the public and private sectors where she has been involved in promoting the arts and their importance to economic development. She started as District Manager in the Office of Neighborhood Development in New York City’s Lindsay Administration. She went on to serve as First Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Affairs under New York City Mayors Abe Beame and Ed Koch, and later as President and CEO of the Boston Center for the Arts. She was also a founder of The Queens Museum.

She received her B.S. degree from New York University as well as an M.A. from New York University’s Graduate School of Public Administration.

***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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