



NEWS AND INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/16/2004

W. Richard West, Dana Gioia, James Carville and Mary Matalin Present Keynote Addresses at Americans for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies 2nd Joint Convention

WHAT: Americans for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, two of the nation's most influential arts organizations whose members are responsible for distributing nearly two billion dollars in public funding for the arts, will convene in Washington, DC, to create a national arts action agenda. Over 1,500 arts and business leaders will attend the second joint convention, entitled pARTicipate2004, and will focus on strategies for using the arts to build communities that are vital, inclusive, and economically prosperous.

SPEAKERS: W. Richard West, founding Director of the National Museum of the American Indian is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and has devoted much of his professional and personal life to working with American Indians on legal, cultural, and educational issues. (Saturday, July 17 at 11:00 AM) Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, is an internationally acclaimed poet, critic, educator, and former business executive. Gioia is best known for his book, *Can Poetry Matter?* about the role of poetry in contemporary culture. (Sunday, July 18 at 12:30 PM) James Carville, America's best-known political consultant, was the chief campaign strategist for Clinton/Gore in 1992 and went on to be the President's chief political consultant. Mary Matalin formerly served as Assistant to President George W. Bush and counselor to Vice President Dick Cheney and was the first White House official to hold that double title. Carville and Matalin are married and co-authored the best-selling political campaign book, *All's Fair: Love, War, and Running for President*. (Monday, July 19 at 12:45 PM)

WHERE: Omni Shoreham Hotel–Regency Ballroom
2500 Calvert Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

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.

Founded in 1968, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the membership organization that unites, represents, and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. NASAA's mission is to advance and promote a meaningful role for the arts in the lives of individuals, families, and communities throughout the United States.

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