



NEWS AND INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 1,400 Arts Leaders to Convene in Philadelphia for Americans for the Arts Annual Convention

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America, will hold its annual convention in Philadelphia, June 20 – 22, 2008. This is the largest gathering in the nation of arts leaders and their partners in creative business, education, and government. The convention entitled, *American Evolution: Arts in the New Civic Life*, will share strategies for leading creative communities.

"We are thrilled the convention will take place in Philadelphia, an innovative and diverse city that embraces the artists, innovators, and creators that are key engines of the city's recent renaissance" stated Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Keynote Speakers

Donna Brazile, Friday, June 20, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Donna Brazile is one of the most influential African-American women in modern American political life. Brazile made history as the first African-American woman to lead a major presidential campaign, when she served as campaign manager for Gore-Lieberman 2000. Brazile will be part of a special plenary session that looks at the role the arts play in electoral politics.

Andrew Zolli, Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Andrew Zolli, the celebrated futurist, will deliver the convention's keynote address on Saturday, June 21. In this exciting keynote, titled *The Road Ahead: Forces Shaping the Coming Decades*, Zolli outlines the trends that will shape the arts' future and help arts leaders respond intelligently to the emerging complex changes—both globally and in their communities.

Innovators

Convention attendees will also hear from pioneering individuals working in and around the arts. Innovator sessions are presented as a part of each convention track. Innovator sessions will feature:

- **Pepón Osorio, Public Art Innovator** – Friday, June 20, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- **Claudine Brown and AB Spellman, Preserving Diverse Cultures Innovators** – Friday, June 20, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **Patricia Martin, Private-Sector Innovator** – Friday, June 20, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **Rob "Biko" Baker, Civic Engagement Innovator** – Friday, June 20, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **Marianne Hughes, Leadership Innovator** – Friday, June 20, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **Richard J. Deasy, Nick Rabkin, and Andrea Peterson, 2007 National Teacher of the Year, Arts Education Innovators** with special guest moderator **Jeffrey Brown, Correspondent, NewsHour** – Sunday, June 22, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- **Pam Breaux, Public Advocacy Innovator** – Sunday, June 22, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- **South African Court Justice Albie Sachs** – Sunday, June 22, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **Meryl Levitz, Economic Development Innovator** – Sunday, June 22, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Americans for the Arts will offer eight different program tracks at this year's convention to allow for both close connection with colleagues and expanded opportunities for crossover and collaboration within a variety of areas of interest. This year's program tracks are: Arts Education, Civic Engagement, Economic Development, Leadership, Preserving Diverse Cultures, Private Sector, Public Advocacy, and Public Art. The economic development track is generously supported by PECO. The arts education track is generously supported by the Wallace Foundation and features a series of special sessions devoted to teaching artists supported by the Dana Foundation, which is also supporting an advance workshop. The public art track is generously supported by Ovation TV. The annual convention also consists of special events and visits to some of the Philadelphia area's most unique cultural sites.

The local host for *American Evolution: Arts in the New Civic Life* is the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. Lead sponsorship of the convention has been provided by The William Penn Foundation with additional support from the Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust B, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, PECO, the Independence Foundation, Ovation TV, the Wallace Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the MetLife Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation.

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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