

ABOUT NASAA AWARDS

The NASAA awards program showcases best practices of state arts agencies and regional arts organizations, recognizes exemplary leadership, and demonstrates how government creatively, effectively and efficiently serves the public through the arts.

**GARY YOUNG AWARD** This award recognizes an executive director who makes an extraordinary contribution to public support for the arts at the state, regional and national levels. Ideal candidates exhibit exemplary leadership, innovative thinking and dedication to diverse artistic expression.

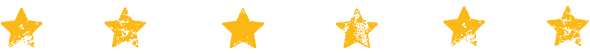
**DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD** This award honors a chair or council member whose outstanding service, creative thinking and leadership significantly impact public support for the arts in his/her state and across the country.

**NASAA PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY**  
This award honors an individual for exceptional advocacy on behalf of state arts agencies and public funding for the arts.

**NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD** This award is administered through a partnership between NASAA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and is awarded through a \$25,000 NEA grant. The purpose of this award is to recognize and support proven, effective programs or promising new initiatives that make the arts accessible and inclusive to individuals with disabilities and/or older adults.

2012 NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

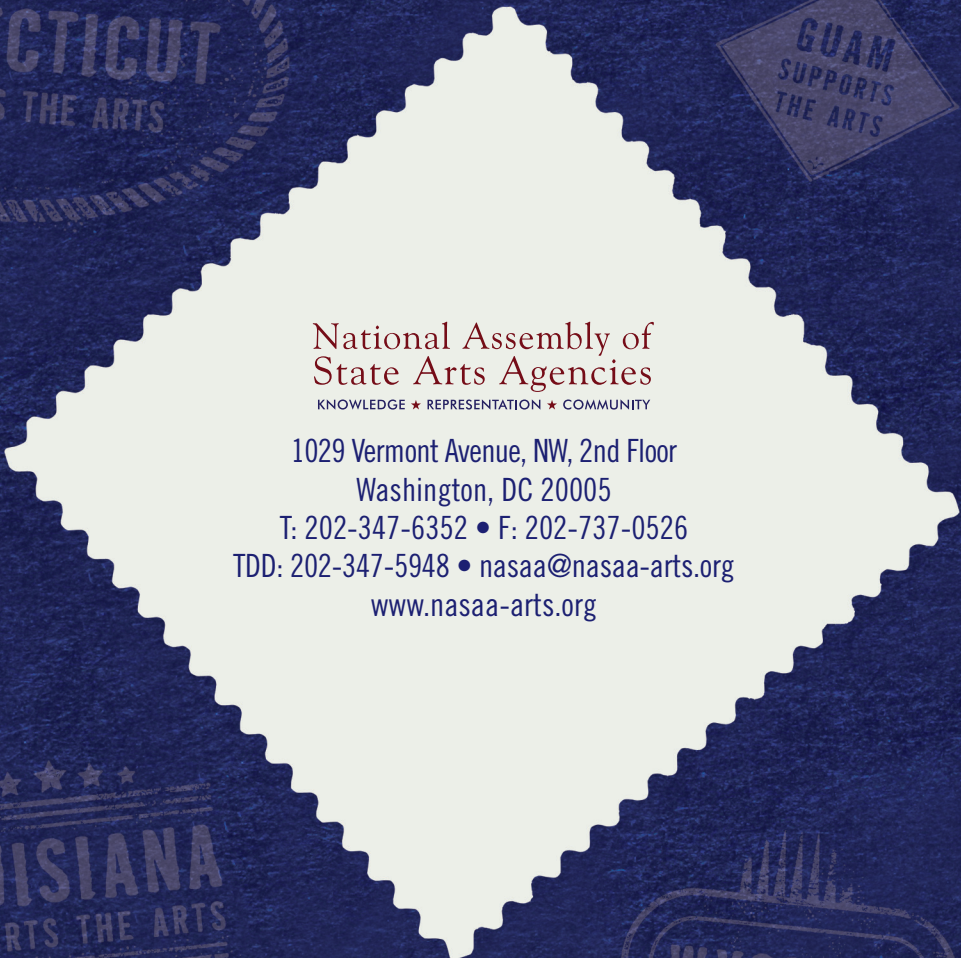


*The National Accessibility Leadership Award recognizes the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) for its exceptional leadership in making the arts fully available to people with disabilities and for providing all its citizens with the opportunity to experience art. This award includes a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to further advance PCA’s access efforts.*

Since 2005, PCA has partnered with VSA Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts to increase the accessibility of cultural events and facilities through the Pennsylvania Cultural Access Program. With this award, the Pennsylvania Cultural Access Program will expand to work closely with disability leaders in four regions—Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster/York and Lehigh Valley—to develop regional cultural access programs. The Pennsylvania Cultural Access Program also will purchase audio description and captioning equipment for cultural organizations to share; train staff members and volunteers at cultural organizations to use the equipment and provide effective accessibility services to their patrons; and help promote accessible art programs to the community. The NEA and NASAA established the National Accessibility Leadership Award in 2001. Since then, 10 states have been recognized for their exemplary accessibility efforts in the field.

PREVIOUS NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2010 North Carolina Arts Council
- 2009 Indiana Arts Commission
- 2008 Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
- 2007 Minnesota State Arts Board
- 2006 Maine Arts Commission
- 2005 Massachusetts Cultural Council
- 2004 New Jersey State Council on the Arts
- 2003 New York State Council on the Arts
- 2002 Ohio Arts Council
- 2001 Arizona Commission on the Arts



National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

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ABOUT THE AWARD GIFT ARTIST

*As a symbol of appreciation, NASAA is pleased to present each of its 2012 individual award recipients with a gift. Handmade paper jewelry from Washington, D.C., artist Jessica Beels is this year’s Distinguished Public Service and Gary Young Award gift. A gift certificate from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is this year’s President’s Award for Outstanding Advocacy gift.*

**JESSICA BEELS** is a jeweler and sculptor working primarily with handmade flax paper over wire armatures to make functional and contemplative pieces. She is intrigued with the geometry of organic structures such as leaves, shells and microscopic organisms. Much of her work explores the ambiguity of materials and shapes and the echoes of interior and exterior spaces. Beels is both self-taught and formally trained in many craft techniques, including metalwork, papermaking and stone carving. She lives in Washington, D.C.



NASAA 2012 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

OCTOBER 4-6 WASHINGTON, D.C.



PREVIOUS GARY YOUNG AWARD RECIPIENTS

2010 Arlynn (Arni) Fishbaugh, Montana • 2008 Suzette Surkamer, South Carolina • 2007 David Fraher, Minnesota • 2006 Robert Booker, Arizona • 2005 Philip Horn, Pennsylvania • 2004 Dennis Holub, South Dakota • 2003 Barbara Fulton Moran, New Jersey • 2002 John Paul Batiste, Texas • 2001 James Backas, Maryland • 2000 Betty Price, Oklahoma • 1999 Peggy Baggett, Virginia • 1998 Al Head, Alabama • 1997 Bennett Tarleton, Tennessee • 1996 Shelley Cohn, Arizona • 1995 Mary Hays, New York • 1994 Wayne Lawson, Ohio • 1993 Alden C. Wilson, Maine • 1992 David Nelson, Montana • 1991 Mary Regan, North Carolina



PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2010 Lucius “Lu” Ellsworth, Virginia • 2008 Margaret “Peggy” Kannenstine, Vermont • 2007 David “White Thunder” Trottier, North Dakota • 2006 Delores C. Fery, Idaho • 2005 Margaret “Tog” Newman, North Carolina • 2004 William Davis, West Virginia • 2003 Judith Ann Rapanos, Michigan • 2002 Dr. Oscar E. Remick, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York • 2001 Barbara S. Robinson, Ohio • 2000 Carol Brown, Pennsylvania



2012 AWARDS TASK FORCE

**Al Head, CHAIR** *Executive Director, Alabama State Council on the Arts*  
**Robert Booker** *Executive Director, Arizona Commission on the Arts*  
**Bill Francis** *Former Chair, Kentucky Arts Council* **Susan Landis** *Chair, West Virginia Commission on the Arts* **John Rohman** *Former Chair, Maine Arts Commission* **Suzette Surkamer** *Former Executive Director, South Carolina Arts Commission*

2012 GARY YOUNG AWARD

CHRISTINE D’ARCY

Executive Director, Oregon Arts Commission



PHOTO BY WILL BRAGG

Christine D’Arcy was named executive director of the Oregon Arts Commission in 1994. At the Arts Commission, she conceived of and initiated the nationally recognized Arts Build Communities program. From 1998 to 2001, she led a team of state-wide cultural partners in the development of the Oregon Cultural Trust, and has been the Trust’s executive director since 2003.

D’Arcy was one of the leaders of Oregon’s CHAMP (culture, heritage, art, movies/main street, preservation/public broadcasting) cultural reinvestment process. CHAMP resulted in Governor Ted Kulongoski adding \$13.6 million for culture above base funding levels in one biennium, followed by an additional \$5 million in the following biennium. This included more than \$3 million in increases for the Oregon Arts Commission. CHAMP efforts enabled the Arts Commission to forge strategic alliances with key cultural leaders and sectors in the state. Both the Oregon Cultural Trust and CHAMP cultural reinvestment are now recognized as innovative national models.

D’Arcy was executive director of the Alaska State Council on the Arts from 1978 to 1992. Her many professional affiliations speak to the quality of her leadership, her keen intellect and her ability to draw people together in common enterprise. She is a past board chair of the Western States Arts Federation and currently serves on its Executive Committee. D’Arcy has served on numerous National Endowment for the Arts panels, has been a member of NASAA’s Leadership Development and Nominating committees, and currently serves on NASAA’s board of directors.

This award recognizes D’Arcy for her exemplary leadership at the state, regional and national levels and her innovative work to advance the field of public funding for the arts.



2012 DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

DOROTHY PIERCE MCSWEENEY

Immediate Past Chair, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation  
Chair Emeritus, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities



Dorothy Pierce McSweeney has been in public service from the beginning of her career, as an officer of U.S. Agency for International Development in Vietnam; as a presidential oral historian for Lyndon Johnson; and in her current work with the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation (MAAF), the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH), Americans for the Arts, and numerous arts and educational organizations in Washington, D.C.

McSweeney served as vice chair of DCCAH from 1996-1999 and as chair from 1999-2007, when she was named chair emeritus. During her chairmanship, she led an effort to increase DCCAH’s budget from \$1.9 million to \$9.3 million. She spearheaded “Party Animals” and “Pandamania,” public art projects in which hundreds of blank elephant, donkey and panda sculptures were turned over to local artists, who colorfully transformed them before they were mounted throughout the city. Proceeds from auctions of the sculptures reinvested more than \$1 million into DCCAH artist grants and education projects.

McSweeney has served on the board of MAAF since 1999 and was its chair from 2009-2012. Using her connections in Washington, she helped to increase significantly the public and private investment in international cultural exchange programs managed by the regional arts organizations.

Elected to the Washington DC Hall of Fame in 2011, McSweeney received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the mayor and was named Washingtonian of the Year with her husband in 1995. She served on the NASAA board from 2003-2005, chaired the Development Committee and was a member of the Arts in Education Task Force.

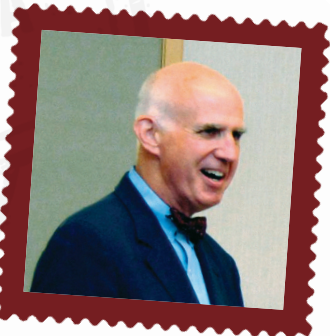
This award recognizes McSweeney for her passionate and tireless commitment to public service on behalf of the arts at the local, state, regional and national levels.



2012 NASAA PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY

THOMAS L. BIRCH

Former Legislative Counsel, NASAA



From 1981 to 2012, Thomas L. Birch served as NASAA’s legislative counsel, representing the state arts agencies and the interests of artists and arts organizations on Capitol Hill, directing advocacy efforts, and advising state and local groups on advocacy and lobbying strategies. In his work with NASAA and other nonprofit organizations, Birch authored articles on

legislative advocacy and public policy, particularly in his areas of specialization in cultural affairs, child welfare and human services. He came to this work from Congress, having served as legislative counsel to members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on issues of domestic policy. An attorney by training, Birch received his J.D. from George Washington University and his B.A. cum laude in American history from Lehigh University. He was a Peace Corps volunteer for three years in Morocco.

A native of California, Birch has lived in Washington, D.C., for more than 30 years, where he has served as a board member and officer for a number of charitable organizations, including the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, the Crafts Center, the Folger Poetry Board and the American Humane Association.

He is serving a fifth term in elected public office as Georgetown’s neighborhood commissioner in Washington, D.C., where he received the Belin Award in 2006 for distinguished community service. In 2003, Birch was given the American Psychological Association’s Award for Distinguished Contribution to Child Advocacy, and in 2006, Casey Family Programs awarded him its Leadership Award.

This award recognizes Birch for his sustained and effective advocacy on behalf of public funding for the arts.

