



**For Immediate Release:** September 20, 2012

**AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS  
2012 NATIONAL ARTS AWARDS  
Monday, October 15, 2012**



Image credit: Event Chair Maria Bell, 2011 honoree artist Jenny Holzer and Americans for the Arts President Robert L. Lynch. Courtesy of Americans for the Arts.

**WHO**

Event Host: **Americans for the Arts**

Event Chair: **Maria Bell**

Event Co-Chairs: **Jody Allen, Sarah Arison, Edythe and Eli Broad, The Steven A. and Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation, Isabella and Theodor Dalenson, Julie and Edward J. Minskoff**

Performance: **YoungArts**

**WHEN & WHERE**

**Monday, October 15, 2012, Cipriani 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York City** – Invitation Only

6:30 p.m. Cocktail reception

7:30 p.m. Seated dinner and presentations

9:00 p.m. Dessert and performance by YoungArts, presentations continue

**WHAT**

Each October, more than 400 of the nation's top opinion leaders from the communities of art, culture, business and philanthropy, come together in New York City to recognize the achievements of those who have exhibited outstanding leadership in the arts, arts education, advocacy, and philanthropy, and to address the importance of supporting such issues nationwide. Held during National Arts and Humanities Month, on Monday, October 15, 2012, the evening will include a cocktail hour followed by a seated dinner with a special performance by **YoungArts** graduates. Artists Committee member and Vanity Fair Photographer at Large, **Todd Eberle** will be taking one-of-a-kind Polaroid portraits, the proceeds of which will benefit Americans for the Arts. Artwork by world-renowned visual artist **Julie Mehretu** will also be on view throughout the evening.

## 2012 National Arts Awards Honorees

Legendary investor and Microsoft co-founder, **Paul G. Allen** will receive the *Eli and Edythe Broad Award for Philanthropy in the Arts*; author, filmmaker, and co-founder of YoungArts and the Presidential Scholars in the Arts Program **Lin Arison** will receive the *Arts Education Award*; Tony Award®-winning stage, film, and television actor **Brian Stokes Mitchell** will receive the 2012 Award for *Outstanding Contributions to the Arts*; Grammy® nominated singer **Josh Groban** will receive the *Bell Family Foundation Young Artist Award*; and acclaimed painter and artists' rights advocate **James Rosenquist** will receive the *Isabella and Theodor Dalenson Lifetime Achievement Award*. Americans for the Arts also announces **AXA Art Insurance Corporation** to receive the 2012 *Corporate Citizenship in the Arts Award*.

## 2012 Award Presenters

The evening's presenters will include: celebrated dancer, choreographer, and former National Arts Awards honoree for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts **Mikhail Baryshnikov**; celebrated soprano singer and musical ambassador **Renée Fleming**; noted philanthropist, art patron, collector, and founding trustee of the Agnes Gund Foundation **Agnes Gund**; Miami-based collector and founder of The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse **Martin Margulies**; American actress, musician, and dancer **Bebe Neuwirth**; and world-renowned American sculptor **Richard Serra**. Honorees will receive an award designed in 2009 by celebrated artist **Jeff Koons**, Americans for the Arts' Artists Committee member and former National Arts Awards honoree of Artistic Achievement.

## 2012 Benefit Committee

John Baldessari, Bill Bell, Melva Bucksbaum and Raymond J. Leary, Paula and James Crown, Todd Eberle and Richard Pandiscio, Gail and Alfred Engelberg, Emily Wei Rales and Mitchell P. Rales, Agnes Gund, Justine and Jeff Koons, Marin Mazzie, Audra McDonald, Tobias Meyer and Mark Fletcher, Gael Neeson and Stefan Edlis, Nora C. and James M. Orphanides, and Mrs. Lily Safra.

## Expected Guests To Be Announced in Coming Weeks

## 2012 Sponsors

AXA Equitable, The Bell Family Foundation, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, The Steven A. and Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation, Isabella and Theodor Dalenson, The Herb Alpert Foundation, Julie and Edward J. Minskoff, and YoungArts.

For more information visit [artsusa.org/go/naa](http://artsusa.org/go/naa).

**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](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).

**For more information regarding tickets for the event, please contact:** Tel: 202-371-2830, E: [naareservations@artsusa.org](mailto:naareservations@artsusa.org)

**For more information on Americans for the Arts, please contact:** Catherine Brandt Vacovsky, Tel: 202-712-2054, E: [cvacovsky@artsusa.org](mailto:cvacovsky@artsusa.org)

**For press requests and further information on the National Arts Awards, please contact:** Concetta Duncan, [FITZ & CO](http://FitzandCo.com), Tel: 212-627-1455 x232, E: [concetta@fitzandco.com](mailto:concetta@fitzandco.com)