History of Recipients

Connecticut Arts Awards

1978
Marian Anderson, Singer
Robert Motherwell, Painter and printmaker
Lippincott, Inc., Public sculpture fabricators
Peace Train Foundation / Paul LeMay, Fiddler and founder of the New England Fiddle Contest
Patricia Edwards/Valley Arts Center
Juan Fuentes, Photographer
Mildred Dunnock, Actress
Arthur Miller, Playwright
Moshe Paranov, Pianist and founder of Hartt School of Music, Hartford
Mary Hunter Wolf, Theater director and producer

1979
Bowen-Peters School of Dance
Malcolm Cowley, Literary artist
Ralph Kirkpatrick, Musician
Meriden Gravure Company
Ruben Nakian, Sculptor
National Theatre of the Deaf
New Britain Museum of Art
Menen Osario

1980
Artists Collective
Peter Blume, Painter and sculptor
Lucia Chase, Dancer and actress
Eva LeGallienne, Actress
Newton Schenck, Founder of New Haven’s Long Wharf Theatre
Robert Penn Warren, Poet and novelist

1981
Morris Carnovsky, Actor
Community Renewal Team Craftery Gallery
Curbstone Press
Anthony S. Keller, Advocate for creation of state arts councils. Executive director of CT Commission on the Arts from 1966-1981

1981 (continued)
Pilobolus
Maurice Sendak, Author and illustrator of children’s books
Cesar Pelli, Architect

1982
Victor Borge, Musician and humorist
Brookfield Craft Center
Gerry Mulligan, Saxophonist
Lloyd Richards, Actor, director and Dean of Yale School of Drama
Margo Rose, Puppeteer
United Technologies Corp.

1983
William Benton Art Museum
Arvin Brown, Theater and television director
Greater Hartford Arts Council
Jackie McLean, Jazz saxophonist and co-founder of Artists Collective, Hartford
James Merrill, Poet

1984
William Styron, Novelist and essayist
Wadsworth Atheneum
City Spirit Artists
Champion International

1985
No awards given

1986
Betty Jones, Singer
Michael Price, Arts administrator (Goodspeed Musicals, East Haddam)
James Laughlin, Poet
Barbara Tuchman, Historian and author

1987
Cleve Gray, Abstract expressionist painter
Lucille Lortel, Producer and actress
Ernestine Stodell, Dancer
Dave Brubeck, Jazz pianist and composer
1988
Paul Winter, Saxophonist
Aetna Life & Casualty
The Hartford Courant
Frank Ballard, Puppeteer

1989
Helen Frankenthaler, Abstract expressionist painter
Mark Lamos, Theater and opera director
John Russell, Art critic
Gary Karr, Bassist

1990
Gary M. Young, Contributor to the state arts council movement in US. Executive director of the CT Commission on the Arts from 1981-1990
Young Audiences of Connecticut
Xerox Corporation
Marilyn Nelson Waniek, Poet
Gerald Tirozzi, Arts in education leader/advocate
Skitch Henderson, Pianist, conductor and composer

1991
Paul Brown, Jazz bassist
Peter DeVries, Editor and novelist
Richard Hallinan, Arts administrator (Downtown Cabaret Theater, Bridgeport)
Jane Henson, Puppeteer
Martha Myers, Teacher of dance

1992
Frank Rich, Jr., Founder of Stamford Center for the Arts
Ann Petry, Author
Peter Good, Graphic designer and illustrator
Robert Anderson, Portrait painter
Audubon Arts District

1993
Renamed Governor’s Arts Awards

1994
No awards given

1995
No awards given

1996
No awards given

1997
Paul Cadmus, Visual artist
Alison Chase, Choreographer and co-founder of Pilobolus
John Hollander, Poet and literary critic
Aldo Parisot, Cellist

1998
Antonio Frasconi, Woodcut artist
Helena Hernmarck, Trompe-l’oeil weaver
Wally Lamb, Novelist
Moses Pendleton, Choreographer, co-founder of Pilobolus and founder of MOMIX

1999
Anthony Braxton, Composer and musician
Judy Dworin, Teacher of dance and arts educator
Elizabeth MacDonald, Potter and sculptor
The Eugene O’Neill Theater Center

2000
Elizabeth Gordon Chandler, Sculptor and founder of the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts
J. D. McClatchy, Poet and literary critic
Philip Johnson, Architect
Willie Ruff, Hornist and bassist
Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts

2001
No awards given

2002
Chamber Music Plus
Casimer Michalczyk, Sculptor
Yale School of Drama
Yale Repertory Theatre
2003
Concora/CT Choral Artists
Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children’s Theatre
Donald Margulies, Playwright
Ed Johnetta Miller, Fiber artist
James Naughton, Actor

2004
Antiquarian & Landmarks Society
John Canning, Decorative artist and art restorer
Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc.
Florence Griswold Museum
A. R. Gurney, Playwright and novelist
Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Inc.
Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection

2005
Doug Hughes, Theater and film director
Sam Waterston, Actor
Jeanine Basinger, Film historian and educator
Westport Country Playhouse
Tina Weymouth & Chris Frantz, Musicians

2006
No awards given

Renamed Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism

2007
William Morris Meredith, Poet
Robert A.M. Stern, Architect
Barry Levinson, Screen writer and film director
Dr. Robert D. Ballard, Underwater archaeologist

2008
Professor Joan D. Hedrick, Historian, educator and biographer
Vita West Muir, Founder of the Litchfield Jazz Festival
Gene Wilder, Actor
Michael Wilson, Stage director

2009
Jacques Pepin, Chef and author
Philip Roth, Novelist
Campbell Scott, Actor and voice artist
Smith Edwards Architects

2010
Barkley L. Hendricks, Painter
Connecticut Humanities Council
ESPN
Diane Smith, Journalist, talk show host and author

2011
Curtain Call
Keir Dullea, Actor
Lyman Orchards
Alfred Marder, Peace activist and advocate for Connecticut Freedom Trail

2012
No awards given

Renamed Governor’s Arts Awards

2013
Elizabeth Alexander, poet, essayist, playwright
Olu Oguibe, visual artist and curator
Jimmy Greene, jazz musician and bandleader

2014
Christopher Plummer, actor
Tim Prentice, kinetic sculptor
Luanne Rice, author

New in 2014
Governor’s Patron of the Arts Awards

Anne Tyler Calabresi, co-founder of the IFAI
Jean M. Handley, co-founder of the IFAI
Roslyn Milstein Meyer, co-founder of the IFAI
The Travelers Companies, Inc.
The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation