

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE & TOURISM

Governor's Awards for Excellence
in Culture & Tourism
and
Distinguished Advocates

2010



CONNECTICUT'S
375th
ANNIVERSARY
1635-2010



Connecticut Commission
on Culture & Tourism

“Excellence is a better teacher than mediocrity. The lessons of the ordinary are everywhere. Truly profound and original insights are to be found only in studying the exemplary.”

*Warren G. Bennis,
American scholar and author*



On behalf of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, welcome to the 2010 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism. It is a pleasure to honor the achievements of all of our awardees.

I would like to congratulate the 2010 winners of the Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism and the Distinguished Advocates. These remarkable individuals and organizations enhance the economic vitality of our state and enrich the quality of life in Connecticut and the world. We are fortunate and proud to have this extraordinary group of honorees living, working and volunteering in the great State of Connecticut.

Thank you for joining us for a night of spectacular celebration.



Karen Senich
Executive Director
Connecticut Commission on
Culture & Tourism



ndustrious. Inventive. Enduring. As we celebrate our state's 375th anniversary, tonight's honorees embody the enduring spirit of those who have come before us. Their passion, energy and dedication motivates us all. The honorees have made lasting and outstanding contributions to Connecticut and beyond. They will be celebrated far into the future.

Tonight's program celebrates the accomplishments of our awardees who hail from all corners of our state. Their work reflects the way in which art, history, digital media and tourism intertwine to form a vibrant creative economy and a great state.

Join with me to congratulate the winners of the 2010 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism and the Distinguished Advocates and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you all for your participation and support.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor



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**Connecticut State Troubadour
Lara Herscovitch**

Lara Herscovitch is a charismatic, award-winning touring singer-songwriter whose original music is a skillful blend of contemporary acoustic/folk flavored with pop, jazz, blues and Latin influences. She also has extensive experience as a policy social worker, and has worked in the US, Latin America and Asia on behalf of disadvantaged individuals focusing on education, community development, human services and juvenile justice. Echoes of this work resonate throughout her music. As State Troubadour, Herscovitch serves as an ambassador of music and song to encourage cultural literacy and promote the State of Connecticut.
www.LaraHerscovitch.com



**Jocelyn Maminta
Mistress of Ceremonies**

Jocelyn Maminta is News Channel 8's anchor woman and Emmy Award nominated medical reporter. She has anchored and reported for television stations in North Carolina, Wisconsin, Texas and Connecticut across a career in broadcast journalism spanning more than 20 years. She supports a number of non-profit organizations across Connecticut. She serves on the board of the Friends of Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and the Arts Council of Greater New Haven and is a member of the Junior League of Greater New Haven. Jocelyn is also the co-founder of Caroline's Room, a safe haven for families coping with the uncertainties in the birth of a premature baby. There are Caroline's Rooms in New Haven; Hartford; Roanoke, VA; and three in Texas. Another room will open at Danbury Hospital in early 2011.

Program

Performance

Connecticut State Troubadour, Lara Herscovitch

Welcome

Karen J. Senich, executive director,
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Presentation of the 2010 Governor's Awards

■ **Distinguished Advocates**

Presented by Michael Price, chair and Karen J. Senich

Fred T. Blish, *Manchester*

Coleman H. Casey, *Hartford*

John Frantzis, *Middlebury*

Rose Gaudio Lamy, *Wallingford*

Donna McCalla, *Amston*

Marian O'Keefe, *Seymour*

■ **Awards for Excellence**

Barkley L. Hendricks, *New London*

Presented by Susan Hendricks, wife of 27 years and director of communication and manager of building and grounds, Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London.

Connecticut Humanities Council, *Middletown*

Presented by Brenda R. Williams, Ph.D., Senior Associate Consultant for Noel-Levitz, a leader in higher education consulting; Professor Emeritus of English and Education at the University of New Haven; and Chair of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Humanities Council from 2008-2009.

Diane Smith, *West Hartford*

Presented by Kenn Venit, media consultant, faculty member at Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut State University; and past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

ESPN, *Bristol*

Presented by Trey Wingo, host of ESPN's *NFL Live* and *NFL Primetime*; and Andy Katz, senior writer for ESPN.com and a familiar face to UConn men's basketball fans.

■ **Special Presentation**

The CT State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission

Presented by Walter W. Woodward Ph.D., State Historian and Assistant Professor of History at UCONN.

Closing Remarks

Reception

Barkley L. Hendricks

Barkley Hendricks is a visual artist whose creative focus is portraiture, the figure and landscape. Best known for his stunning, life-sized canvasses portraying



people from the urban northeast, it is through his empowering and sometimes confrontational images that Hendricks explores the cultural complexity of black identity in the contemporary world. Hendricks graduated with a BFA and MFA in painting and photography from Yale University. He has been exhibited widely in solo and group shows and his works are held in major museum collections.

He and his wife, Susan, live New London where he has been a Professor of Art at Connecticut College since 1972.

Connecticut Humanities Council

Incorporated in 1973 as the state's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Connecticut Humanities Council ("CHC") focuses its work on two time-honored traditions in the humanities - reflective

reading of literature and exploration of history.

Led by Bruce Fraser, executive director for over 28 years, CHC is committed to increasing public involvement in Connecticut's rich history

and assisting museums, heritage organizations and historical societies to bring the important stories of the past to the public. CHC's granting programs fund exhibits, walking tours, cultural festivals and community humanities projects that explore Connecticut's diverse local heritage, as well as American and world history.

The Connecticut Humanities Council is located in Middletown.



ESPN

Launched in 1979, ESPN is the world's leading multinational, multimedia sports entertainment company featuring a portfolio of over 50 multimedia sports assets. The company is comprised of six domestic television networks plus syndicated programming, *ESPN The Magazine*, ESPN Radio, ESPN.com, ESPN International (46 networks, syndication, radio, web sites), owned



events such as the X Games and more. ESPN's first and flagship show,

SportsCenter, offers breaking news, highlights, features and analysis from award-winning journalists with 100 million viewers a month. ESPN is home to one of the largest in-house graphic design centers in the state, employing over 125 personnel responsible for design and on-air graphics. On April 9, ESPN opened its largest building yet of the 17 on its 116 acre campus, a 139,000 square-foot technical facility and office building.

ESPN is located in Bristol.

Diane Smith

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Emmy-award winning news anchor, producer, reporter and TV journalist, Diane Smith has authored four books - *Positively Connecticut*, *Absolutely Positively Connecticut*, *Christmas in Connecticut* and *Summer in Connecticut* - all based on her popular television series entitled, *Positively*



Connecticut. Her latest television project for Connecticut Public Television is the weekly magazine series *All Things Connecticut*. Ms. Smith actively promotes Connecticut business and tourism and is well-known for "showing Connecticut to the rest of the world in a positive light". Most recently, Ms. Smith was selected by the Connecticut Network

to serve as the network's 2010 Elections Coordinator and is nominated for a 2010 Emmy award for the *Positively Connecticut: Living Modern in Connecticut* special.

Diane lives in West Hartford with her husband, Tom Woodruff.

Distinguished Advocates Awards

Distinguished Advocates are Connecticut residents who, without monetary compensation, have worked to strengthen, preserve or promote the arts, digital media, film, history, historic preservation and tourism in the state and made a significant impact on one or more organizations, or have made important contributions to their community, region or state.

Fred T. Blish, Manchester, for his 50+ years as the “guiding force” and founding member of the all-volunteer organization, the Little Theatre of Manchester.

Coleman H. Casey, Hartford, for his 30+ years of hard work and dedication to the Hartford arts community and his service as a trustee or board member of more than 15 organizations.

John Frantzis, Middlebury, for his 50+ years of dedication to the Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury and his continuous advocacy efforts for tourism in Northwestern Connecticut.

Rose Gaudio Lamy, Wallingford, for her passion and energy as a tourism ambassador and for her unyielding love for the “Great State of Connecticut”.

Donna J. McCalla, Amston, for her tireless efforts to revitalize Hebron's history and its historic structures.

Marian O’Keefe, Seymour, for her 50+ years of enthusiastic commitment to learning the history of whatever Connecticut town she resided in – seven - and for her dedication to raise public awareness of Connecticut’s rich local and state history.

Special Presentation: Connecticut State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission



The Connecticut State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission, formed in March 1972, was

charged with obtaining funds for the restoration of the State Capitol, which took place from 1979 to 1989. The 12-member Commission continues to oversee the physical, historic and artistic integrity of the State Capitol and its grounds. Its members are:



- Robert D. Harris, Jr., Chairperson, Woodbridge
- Representative Emil “Buddy” Altobello, Meriden
- Bernard P. Auger, Marlborough
- Senator Joseph J. Crisco, Jr., Woodbridge
- Raeanne V. Curtis, DPW Commissioner, Hamden
- Lorraine Guilmartin, West Hartford
- Charles B. Higgins, Tolland
- Sally Martin, Wethersfield
- William Morgan, West Hartford
- Thomas D. Ritter, Hartford
- John Ruffalo, III, East Haven
- Dr. Walter W. Woodward, State Historian, West Hartford



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Genius of Connecticut

The award statuette, sculpted for CCT by Connecticut artist David Boyajian, is affectionately known as *CONNIE*. It is a replica of Randolph Roger's statue entitled "The Genius of Connecticut" done in 1878. The original bronze figure was created to sit atop of the Connecticut State Capitol. The model stands in the lobby of the State Capitol Building.

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Nicholas Bellantoni, State Archaeologist*

Frank Borres

Charles Bunnell

Carolyn Cicchetti

Arthur Diedrick

Phillip Eliasoph

Anne Elvgren

Walter M. Fiederowicz

Bruce Fraser, Executive Director,
CT Humanities Council *

Betty Hale

Daniel Heffernan

Helen Higgins, Executive Director,
CT Trust for Historic

Preservation

Harvey Hubbell

Herbert Jay

Fritz Jellinghaus

Reneson Loisel

Edward Marcus

Lawrence McHugh

Ed McKeon

Guy Ortoleva

Paul Pozzi

Michael P. Price, Chair

Leo Redgate

Clem Roy

Rita Schmidt

Ann Sheffer

Will K. Wilkins

Walter Woodward, State Historian *

Ted Yudain

*Ex-officio members