



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Art
Tourism
Film
History

NEWS
For immediate release

Contact:

MEDIA ADVISORY/CALENDAR LISTING - APRIL 28 EVENT

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**COMMISSION ON CULTURE & TOURISM TO HONOR ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE
2010 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CULTURE & TOURISM**

[HARTFORD, Conn, April 21, 2010] — Celebrate Connecticut's creative industries by honoring organizations and individuals who have made lasting contributions to the fields of arts, digital media, film, history, historic preservation, and tourism during the 2010 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism, presented by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism (CCT). The awards ceremony will take place in the atrium of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on April 28.

Hosted by WTNH News 8 anchor woman and Emmy Award nominated medical reporter, Jocelyn Maminta, the awards ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public; however, seating is limited.

Recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism and Culture & Tourism and Distinguished Advocates Awards will be honored during the ceremony.

The Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism recognize organizations and individuals who have demonstrated excellence and lifetime achievement in the fields of arts, digital media, film, history, historic preservation, and tourism. Recipients are selected based on magnitude of achievement; the level of recognition brought by achievement and sustained contribution to the field and the state.

Recipients of the Distinguished Advocate Awards are Connecticut residents who, without monetary compensation, have worked to strengthen, preserve or promote the creative industry in the state. They have made a significant impact on one or more organizations or have made important contributions to their communities, regions or the state.

A special presentation will be made to the Connecticut State Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission. The 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.

WHAT: 2010 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism and the 2010 Distinguished Advocates Awards Ceremony and reception

WHO: Governor M. Jodi Rell; WTNH News 8 anchor woman Jocelyn Maminta; ESPN *NFL Live* and *NFL Primetime* host Trey Wingo; Andy Katz, senior writer for ESPN.com; members of Connecticut's creative industries; Connecticut State Troubadour Lara Herscovitch; legislators; presenters and recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism and Distinguished Advocates.

2010 Governor's Award Recipients are:

Barkley L. Hendricks, New London, visual artist and Professor of Art at Connecticut College

Connecticut Humanities Council, Middletown, the state's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Diane Smith, West Hartford, Emmy Award winning news anchor, producer, reporter and TV journalist

ESPN, Bristol, 24-hour, multinational sports broadcasting network and leader in digital media and technology.

2010 Distinguished Advocates include:

Fred T. Blish of 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 of 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 of Middlebury, for his 50+ years of dedication to the Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury and his continuous advocacy for tourism in Northwestern Connecticut.

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

Donna J. McCalla of Amston, for her tireless efforts to revitalize Hebron’s history and its historic properties, structures and landmarks.

Marian O’Keefe of 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.

WHEN: April 28, 2010

Awards ceremony: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Legislative Office Building Atrium

300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

COST: Free and open to the public

MEDIA RSVP: Rhonda Olisky at (860) 256-2752, Rhonda.olisky@ct.gov

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About the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism brings together arts, history, historic preservation and tourism. Its mission is to preserve and promote Connecticut's cultural and tourism assets in order to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the state. The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism's offices, which include a gallery, are located at One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut. The Commission's art gallery is open to the public weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The space features changing exhibits that directly relate to the Commission's programs across all three divisions. For more information, log on to www.cultureandtourism.org.

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