



Michelle Obama  
*Honorary Chairman*

George Stevens, Jr.  
*Co-Chairman*

Margo Lion  
*Co-Chairman*

Mary Schmidt Campbell  
*Vice Chairman*

## News Release

September 16, 2009

### **New Leadership Appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities**

Washington, DC--President Barack Obama appointed George Stevens, Jr. and Margo Lion to serve as co-chairs of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities today. Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell was appointed by the President to serve as the committee's vice-chair. These distinguished appointments are exemplary of this Administration's belief that the arts and humanities are at the core of a vital society. Both the Chairs and the Vice-Chair bring to the President's Committee a wealth of experience in the arts and humanities and have, throughout their varied and illustrious careers, demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to these fields.

In a White House press release, the President said, "My administration is committed to [...] investing in the future of arts and the humanities, and these individuals will serve my team well as we work to accomplish these goals. I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead."

The President's Committee welcomes the new chairs and vice-chair and congratulates them on their appointments.

#### **George Stevens, Jr., Co-Chairman**

In a career spanning fifty years George Stevens, Jr. has created a legacy of distinguished work as a writer, director, producer of motion pictures and television. In 1962 he became the head of the Motion Picture Service of the U.S. Information Agency under Edward R. Murrow, and in 1967 founded the American Film Institute. He continues to serve on the AFI Board. As a writer and producer Stevens has earned 11 Emmys, two George Foster Peabody Awards for Meritorious Service to Broadcasting and nine awards from the Writers Guild of America. Among his honored productions are *The Kennedy Center Honors* which he launched in 1978; the mini-series *Separate But Equal* and *The Murder of Mary Phagan*; *George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey*; *We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration from the Lincoln Memorial*; and the feature film *The Thin Red Line* which was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture. In 2008 he made his debut as a playwright on Broadway with *Thurgood* which earned a Tony nomination for its star Laurence Fishburne. He is also a successful author. *Conversations with the Great Moviemakers of Hollywood's Golden Age* was published in 2005. Currently, Stevens is producing the thirty-second annual *Kennedy Center Honors*, a feature length documentary on the famed political cartoonist Herb Block, and writing a new book on film for Knopf.

#### **Margo Lion, Co-Chairman**

Margo Lion's career has spanned theatre, politics, and education. Starting out as an intern on Capitol Hill for Senator Daniel B. Brewster (D-Maryland) and then as a special cultural projects coordinator in Senator Robert F. Kennedy's New York office, Lion shifted her career to teaching elementary school in the years following Senator Kennedy's death. In 1977, Lion began producing theater for the not-for-profit company, Music-Theater Group/Lenox Arts Center, and in 1982 began her work as a commercial theatre producer. Lion has worked with the pre-eminent theater writers of our time including: Tony Kushner,

David Mamet, Arthur Miller, August Wilson and George C. Wolfe. Her shows on Broadway include: HAIRSPRAY; CAROLINE, OR CHANGE; and ANGELS IN AMERICA. Lion's productions have garnered 20 Tony Awards, 4 Olivier Awards and 1 Pulitzer Prize. Lion is an adjunct professor and a member of the Dean's Council at the NYU-Tisch School of the Arts. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the LABYRINTH Theatre and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids, and on the advisory boards of the Baltimore Young Women's Leadership School, the Alliance for Inclusion in the Arts and PUBLICOLOR.

**Mary Schmidt Campbell, Vice-Chairman**

Dr. Campbell has been dean of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts since 1991. Dean Campbell began her career in New York as the executive director of the Studio Museum in Harlem. Under her leadership, the Studio Museum in Harlem emerged as a major national and international cultural institution and a lynchpin of the economic revival of Harlem. In 1987, Mayor Edward I. Koch invited Dr. Campbell to serve as Commissioner of Cultural Affairs of the City of New York. Dean Campbell holds a B.A. degree in English literature from Swarthmore College, an M.A. in art history from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in humanities, also from Syracuse. She is co-author of *Harlem Renaissance: Art of Black America* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1987) and *Memory and Metaphor: The Art of Romare Bearden, 1940-1987* (New York: Oxford University Press & The Studio Museum in Harlem, 1991). She is the co-editor of *Artistic Citizenship: A Public Voice for the Arts* (New York: Routledge, 2006.) She is currently working on a book on Romare Bearden for Oxford University Press, (2011 expected publication date). She sits on the board of The American Academy in Rome and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. In the fall of 2001 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She served in the voluntary position of Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts from 2007-2009. She also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Tisch Asia, the Tisch School of the Arts Singapore campus.

**ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE**

**HUMANITIES:** The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities was created under President Reagan and is a non-partisan advisory committee to the President of the United States on cultural matters. The First Lady is the Honorary Chairman of the Committee and its members are both private citizens -- artists, scholars, educators, and patrons of the arts and humanities -- and the heads of the federal agencies with a cultural role, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Library of Congress, the Departments of Education, the Interior, and State, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art, among others. The President's Committee proposes, develops and supports special projects that further the White House's cultural priorities and those of its primary cultural partners, the NEA, the NEH and the IMLS, and works on promoting public/private partnerships in the area of the arts and humanities.

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For more information, please contact:

Kimber Craine

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

202/682-5661