

**CREATING
IMPACT**
OREGON ARTS SUMMIT



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‘Creating Impact: Art and Civic Engagement’

**2017 Oregon Arts Summit to celebrate Oregon Arts Commission’s 50th Anniversary
with Tony Kushner, the return of the Governor’s Arts Awards**

Salem, OR—The important role of the arts in reflecting and defining society will be explored during the 2017 Oregon Arts Summit, “Creating Impact: Art and Civic Engagement,” scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6 at the Hilton Portland Downtown. Celebrating the Oregon Arts Commission’s 50th anniversary, the Arts Summit will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner and the return of the Governor’s Arts Awards after a 10-year hiatus.

“Throughout history, art has reflected the most important social issues of its time,” says Arts Commission Chair Christopher Acebo, the associate artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. “It’s fitting that we celebrate the Arts Commission’s 50th Anniversary by examining the important connection between art and civic engagement, and we are thrilled to have Tony Kushner start the conversation.”

Nominated for an Academy Award for his screenplay for Steven Spielberg’s “Lincoln,” Kushner’s honors also include an Emmy Award, two Tony Awards and three Obies. In addition to his two-part epic, “Angels In America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes,” Kushner’s plays include “A Bright Room Called Day,” “Homebody/ Kabul” and the musical “Caroline, or Change.”

In a free 8 a.m. event preceding Arts Summit meetings, Governor Kate Brown will present 2017 Oregon Governor’s Arts Awards to two artists and three organizations as recipients of the 2017 Governor’s Arts Awards. Portland artist Arvie Smith and Yoncalla artist Esther Stutzman will be honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Organization honorees include Crow’s Shadow Institute of the Arts, Portland Opera and The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation.

Other featured speakers for the 2017 Arts Summit include slam-poet and musician Mic Crenshaw, Oregon Symphony Music Director Carlos Kalmar and Randy Cohen of Americans for the Arts, speaking on the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study. Scheduled performances include Poet Laureate Elizabeth Woody, jazz artist Darrell Grant, singer Edna Vazquez, BRAVO Youth

Orchestras and the PHAME Choir—with special guest Excellence in Theatre Education Tony Award-winning teacher Rachel Harry. Breakout sessions will focus on equity, economic impact, education and creativity.

Hosted by the Oregon Arts Commission, the Arts Summit is a forum of learning and shared resources for arts organizations, arts associations, elected officials, individual artists and arts professionals from around the state. The 2017 Oregon Arts Summit is funded in part by The Oregon Community Foundation, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation and the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Care Foundation. Kushner's appearance was made possible by the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Care Foundation.

[Registration](#) for the Oregon Arts Summit is \$95. Scholarships are available; the deadline to apply for Arts Summit scholarships is Friday, Sept. 29. Student tickets are available for \$25. Apply for a scholarship, register or learn more about the Arts Summit [here](#). Register to attend the free Governor's Arts Awards ceremony [here](#).

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The Oregon Arts Commission's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all Oregonians through the arts by stimulating creativity, leadership and economic vitality. The Arts Commission provides funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Oregon Business Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature, federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.