



**MAYOR MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR EDWARD RENDELL,  
HENRY WINKLER, AND TONY BENNETT TO RECEIVE  
THE 2004 PUBLIC LEADERSHIP IN THE ARTS AWARDS**

Washington, DC —January 22, 2004—Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors will present **Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley** with the 2004 National Award for Local Arts Leadership and **Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell** with the 2004 National Award for State Arts Leadership.

At the same ceremony, actor/producer **Henry Winkler** will receive the Legendary Artist Award, an award recognizing artists who use their talent and public personae to raise awareness for causes that benefit the public good. Winkler will be honored for his work on behalf of children's welfare, especially his involvement with the issues of dyslexia, hunger, adoption, and teenage drinking. Singer **Tony Bennett** will be presented the Arts Legacy Award, an inaugural award honoring an individual concerned with the advancement of the arts for future generations. Bennett is responsible for spearheading the establishment of the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, which opened its doors as a New York City public high school in September 2001.

The awards will be presented at the Mayors Arts Luncheon on Thursday, January 22 as part of the Conference of Mayors 72<sup>nd</sup> winter meeting, which will take place at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. These awards are part of a series of Public Leadership in the Arts Awards given annually by Americans for the Arts and The United States Conference of Mayors since 1997. The awards honor elected officials and artists who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the advancement of the arts.

"These two elected public servants and two nationally prominent artists show us a number of ways in which the arts can benefit our fellow citizens. Mayor O'Malley and Governor Rendell have each demonstrated their dedication to thoughtfully using the arts to spur economic development while enhancing the quality of life in the communities they serve," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "And Henry Winkler and Tony Bennett show us how well-known artists can put their visibility to good use advancing the arts and other causes that help improve the human condition."

"We honor these visionaries who have not only touched, but more importantly, changed the lives of many through their support of the arts," said Hempstead, NY Mayor and Conference President James Garner.

*Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, it has a record of more than 40 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).*

*Founded in 1933, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with a population of 30,000 or more. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to: promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. Find more information at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).*

# # #

Contact: Virginia Anagnos  
Goodman Media for Americans for the Arts  
212.576.2700 ext. 222

Elena Temple  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Capital Hilton  
202.639.4346

## **ABOUT THE RECEIPIENTS:**

### **BALTIMORE MAYOR MARTIN O'MALLEY**

Mayor Martin O'Malley has infused new energy into the arts community in Baltimore by instituting several arts enhancing initiatives and education programs. He elevated the city's local arts agency to a cabinet level position as part of the Office of Promotion and the Arts. He supported new Arts and Entertainment Districts and has urged city agencies to make them work, particularly in the areas of new streetscape and redevelopment. He also created a Cultural Tourism Council and the Baltimore City Heritage Area Association in an effort to highlight Baltimore's cultural assets. In 1999, he created the *Be Instrumental* initiative in order to refurbish Fine Arts Education programs in the Baltimore City Schools. Mayor O'Malley directed the campaign and was determined to provide all students in the school system with a high quality arts education. The *Be Instrumental* initiative resulted in: putting more than \$1.4 million worth of new musical instruments into the schools; raising \$400,000 to support new fine arts programs; hiring 100 new music and art teachers, and increasing the school based music and arts programs across the entire school system by 50%.

### **PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR EDWARD RENDELL**

Edward G. Rendell, since his election as Governor of Pennsylvania in 2003, has articulated a broad and inclusive vision for arts and culture that includes the promotion of cultural treasures and use of the arts as a catalyst for downtown redevelopment, improving a community's image, and revitalizing many of Pennsylvania's communities. As Mayor of Philadelphia, he spearheaded the creation of the world-renown Avenue of the Arts, which included the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, the Freedom Theatre, and the Arts Bank. He also instituted the Arts and Culture Fund to give operating grants to smaller arts organizations, growing that fund from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million by the end of his second term. Governor Rendell established the first Gubernatorial Arts and Cultural Transition Team that resulted in strong endorsements of the current efforts of state government and paves the way for new efforts to maximize the competitive edge provided by Pennsylvania's cultural resources.

### **HENRY WINKLER**

Henry Winkler is instantly recognizable from his role as "The Fonz" on the long-running 1970's TV series *Happy Days*, and the black leather jacket he wore on the show has hung in the Smithsonian since 1980. In addition to his successful acting career, he is an award-winning producer and director of family and children's programming, including television specials dealing with adoption, child abuse, teenage drunk driving, and young people coping with divorce. He is deeply committed to children's welfare and uses his visibility to work with numerous children's groups. Winkler is a founder of the Children's Action Network, an organization composed of entertainment industry leaders dedicated to raising the profile of children's issues through the media. He recently wrote a four-book series for kids entitled *Hank Zipzer: The Mostly True Confessions of the World's Best Underachiever*, inspired by his struggle with dyslexia throughout his education.

### **TONY BENNETT**

Tony Bennett has sold more than 50 million records worldwide and introduced dozens of pop standards into the "Great American Songbook" while winning 11 Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also a dedicated painter whose interest in art began as a child, and his work has been exhibited in galleries around the world. Throughout his career, he has put his time into a number of humanitarian concerns, including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the American Cancer Society, and the Save the Rainforest Foundation. Dubbed by Frank Sinatra as "the best singer in the business," Bennett honored his late friend by conceiving the idea of the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Queens, which opened in the fall of 2001. The school offers an intensive specialized arts program in its full academic curriculum and provides an emphasis on community service by partnering with hospitals, day care centers, and senior citizen residences. Through a charitable non-profit organization he established, Exploring the Arts, Bennett is committed to providing and enhancing arts education in cities across America.