

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH
GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS
STATE CAPITOL, GALLERIA
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PREPARED TEXT

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT TODAY, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF OREGON, THE 1983 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS. THIS AWARD IS MADE ANNUALLY TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE MADE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CULTURAL LIFE.

THIS YEAR'S FOUR RECIPIENTS ARE: THE CITIZENS OF EUGENE, JOHN AND BETTY GRAY, BRIDGET BEATTIE MCCARTHY, AND WILL VINTON PRODUCTIONS.

WE ARE ALL RICHER FOR THEIR EFFORTS. THEIR VISION AND DEDICATION HAVE NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROWTH OF INDIVIDUAL CREATIVE EXPRESSION IN THE STATE, BUT ALSO HAVE PROVIDED GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPERIENCE OF ART. THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS OREGON HAS BECOME A BETTER AND MORE EXCITING PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE.

WE NEED THE UNIQUE AND HUMAN DIMENSION WHICH THE ARTS BRING TO THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES IN THIS INCREASINGLY TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY. BUT IN ADDITION TO THIS BENEFIT, WE ALSO MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ECONOMICS OF THE ARTS IN THESE TIMES. THE ARTS MAKE GOOD ECONOMIC SENSE. A HEALTHY CULTURAL CLIMATE CREATES TOURISM, NEW JOBS AND A MEANS TO ATTRACT AND HOLD NEW INDUSTRY IN OREGON. THE RESULTS OF A RECENT STATEWIDE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE OREGON ARTS FOUNDATION REVEALED THAT ATTENDANCE AT NONPROFIT ARTS EVENTS IN OREGON TOPPED FIVE MILLION IN 1982 AND THAT THE DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ARTS ACTIVITIES WAS NEARLY \$50 MILLION STATEWIDE.

INCIDENTLY, I WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT THE NONPROFIT ARTS SECTOR, WHOSE TOTAL SPENDING IN 1981-82 WAS \$17.4 MILLION, COMPARES FAVORABLY WITH THE GROSS COMMODITY SALES OF AGRICULTURE INDUSTRIES SUCH AS APPLES AT \$14.8 MILLION.

OREGON'S NON-POLLUTING ARTS INDUSTRY HELPED PROVIDE MORE THAN 8,000 FULL AND PART-TIME JOBS IN THE STATE LAST YEAR. EQUALLY ENCOURAGING TO ME IS THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN PRIVATE SUPPORT DOLLARS AND IN VOLUNTEERISM WHICH WERE BOTH UP ABOUT 95% VS. THREE YEARS AGO,

CLEARLY, OREGONIANS HAVE ESTABLISHED A NEW BASE OF CARE AND SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS.

AND THAT IS NOT ALL. OREGON WAS THE FIRST STATE IN THE NATION TO INTRODUCE AND PASS A TAX CHECK-OFF BILL WHICH I SIGNED INTO LAW LAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION. OREGONIANS NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF ARTS FACILITIES IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES VIA THE "CHECK-OFF FOR THE ARTS."

BY GIVING ALL OR PART OF THEIR STATE INCOME TAX REFUND, CITIZENS CAN PROVIDE FUNDS WHICH ARE THEN GRANTED BY THE COMMISSION TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. IN 1982 OVER \$130,000 WAS CONTRIBUTED AND 19 GRANTS RANGING IN SIZE FROM \$1,000 TO \$10,000 WERE AWARDED TO FACILITIES PROJECTS ALL OVER OREGON. I AM PLEASED AT THIS SUCCESS AND THAT OTHER STATES ARE FOLLOWING OREGON'S LEAD.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT THAT LAST YEAR I ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE OREGON ARTS COMMISSION TO FIND WAYS TO MARKET, BOTH IN-STATE AND NATIONALLY, THE HAND CRAFTS OF OUR MANY TALENTED CRAFTSPEOPLE. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THAT REPORT AND ADDRESSING ITS FINDINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

FINALLY, I HAVE SEEN FIRST-HAND HOW PUBLIC FUNDS STIMULATE PRIVATE DOLLARS; THEY DO NOT REPLACE THEM. THAT IS WHY I HAVE RECOMMENDED A 44% INCREASE IN THE 1983-85 BUDGET OF THE OREGON ARTS COMMISSION. IN ABSOLUTE TERMS THE DOLLARS ARE MODEST. BUT THOSE DOLLARS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE OF OREGON IN THE FORM OF ARTISTS-IN-THE SCHOOLS RESIDENCIES VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS TOURS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES, STRONGER ARTS ORGANIZATIONS BETTER ABLE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO OUR CITIZENS, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR ARTISTS.

IT IS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLE LIKE THOSE WE HONOR TODAY THAT THE ARTS MOST VIGOROUSLY GROW, DEVELOP AND BECOME A PART OF OUR DAILY EXPERIENCE. NOT ONLY DO THEY ENABLE US TO SHARE A VISION THAT IS BOTH PERSONAL AND UNIVERSAL, BUT THEY INSPIRE AN APPRECIATION OF THE BEAUTY AROUND US. THEIR DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE HELPS US TO BECOME BETTER INDIVIDUALS IN A GREATER SOCIETY. WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS.

AND NOW I AM PRIVILEGED TO PRESENT THIS YEAR'S AWARD CREATED BY FRANK BOYDEN. THIS LIMITED EDITION OF RAKU-FIRED CERAMICS WAS SPECIALLY CREATED FOR THIS OCCASION. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO FRANK BOYDEN FOR THESE EXCEPTIONALLY BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS.

RECEIVING THE AWARD FOR THE CITIZENS OF EUGENE: MAYOR GUS KELLER. CERTAINLY THE MOST ASTONISHING AND IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE OREGON ARTS SCENE THIS YEAR HAS BEEN THE OPENING OF THE HULT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ON SEPTEMBER 24TH. IT IS THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CITIZENS OF EUGENE WHOSE LONG STANDING TRADITION OF SUPPORTING THE ARTS SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE STATE.

IN JUST 20 YEARS THE CITIZENS OF EUGENE HAVE:

- PLACED SIGNIFICANT WORKS OF ART IN THE CITY HALL;
- CONSTRUCTED A CITY-CENTER MALL WITH A SCULPTURE FOUNTAIN AND PERFORMANCE SPACE AS ITS FOCAL POINT;
- HOSTED THE INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM;
- ESTABLISHED A 3% ROOM TAX DESIGNATED "FOR CULTURAL/RECREATIONAL SERVICES" WITH 75% OF THOSE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO ARTIST SERVICES, ART ACQUISITIONS, AND PERFORMING ARTS FACILITIES;
- SPONSORED CHILDREN'S FESTIVALS, ARTIST RESIDENCIES, AND THE OREGON IMAGINATION CELEBRATION;
- PASSED AN \$18.5 MILLION BOND ISSUE TO CONSTRUCT A PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO BE OPERATED BY THE CITY;

- CREATED THE EUGENE ARTS FOUNDATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING FUNDS FOR THE ARTS; AND

- COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION AND BEGAN OPERATION OF THE HULT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS -- A TAX SUPPORTED -- \$29 MILLION FACILITY THAT IS THE CORNERSTONE OF A \$50.9 MILLION COMPLEX THAT INCLUDES THEATERS, A HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, PERFORMANCE PLAZA AND PARKING.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN THE UNDERLYING FORCE IN REALIZING THESE ACHIEVEMENTS. THE PERSEVERING PEOPLE OF EUGENE HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS AS A NECESSARY AND INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR LIVES.

(HAND VASE TO RECIPIENT -- GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE.)

RECEIVING THE AWARD FOR JOHN AND BETTY GRAY IS THEIR DAUGHTER JANET WEBSTER. PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD, JOHN AND BETTY GRAY HAVE QUIETLY AND PERSISTENTLY CHAMPIONED GOOD IDEAS, GOOD EDUCATION, AND GOOD ART THROUGHOUT OREGON. TOGETHER THEY HAVE CARVED CREATIVE FRONTIERS THAT HAVE LEFT THEIR MARKS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. THEIR VISION AND GENEROSITY HAVE MADE SALISHAN ON THE COAST, SUNRIVER SOUTH OF BEND, JOHN'S LANDING AND OMARK INDUSTRIES IN PORTLAND SHOWPLACES OF OREGON'S FINEST ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE. THEIR LEADERSHIP IN MOLDING A WHOLESOME RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUSINESS AND THE ARTS IS A MODEL FOR OTHERS IN INDUSTRY.

JOHN AND BETTY GRAY SEE ARTISTS AS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF EACH PROJECT AND SEE THE ARTS THEMSELVES (PAINTINGS, WEAVINGS, CERAMICS, SCULPTURE, PRINTS) AS SOUND BUSINESS INVESTMENTS BECAUSE "THEY ENHANCE THE WORKING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENTS." FOR YEARS THE GRAYS HAVE WILLINGLY EXTENDED THEMSELVES TO THE ARTS COMMUNITY WITH BOTH FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT. OREGON IS THE FORTUNATE BENEFICIARY OF THEIR VISION, INFLUENCE, AND DEDICATION.

(HAND RECIPIENT VASE -- GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE.)

RECEIVING HER AWARD IS BRIDGET BEATTIE MCCARTHY. IN THE LAST DECADE, BRIDGET BEATTIE MCCARTHY HAS DONE MORE FOR CRAFTS IN OREGON THAN ANY SINGLE PERSON. BECAUSE OF HER TIRELESS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND VISION THE OREGON SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS IN PORTLAND NOW FLOURISHES IN A NEW \$1.7 MILLION CAMPUS WHICH EXEMPLIFIES THE BEST IN THE INTEGRATION OF CRAFTS IN ARCHITECTURE, AND THE NEW DAY LODGE AT TIMBERLINE CONTINUES THE GREAT CRAFTS TRADITION OF THE HISTORIC LODGE IN BEING FURNISHED BY WORKS OF THE HAND.

A STUDENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, A TEACHER, AND A PRODUCTION POTTER BEFORE BECOMING DIRECTOR OF THE OREGON SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS IN 1974, BRIDGET NOW TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE NATION AS A CRAFTS CONSULTANT, WORKING WITH ARCHITECTS, INTERIOR DESIGNERS, AND CLIENTS INTERESTED IN COLLABORATING WITH CRAFTSPEOPLE. SHE IS A TRUSTEE OF THE AMERICAN CRAFTS COUNCIL, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CRAFTS PLANNING TASK FORCE, AND A CONSULTANT TO THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS. IN 1982 SHE WROTE AND PUBLISHED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WESTERN STATES ARTS FOUNDATION, A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK AND A CATALOGUE TITLED ARCHITECTURAL CRAFTS WHICH FEATURES BUILDINGS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE IN TEN WESTERN STATES.

BRIDGET MCCARTHY IS IN LOVE WITH OREGON AND THE CREATIVE POTENTIAL OF ITS PEOPLE. SHE WANTS TO PROMOTE THE HEALTHY REGIONALISM AND UNIQUE SPIRIT WHICH IS FOUND IN THE HANDWORK OF ITS PEOPLE SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR PAST.

(HAND VASE TO RECIPIENT — GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE.)

WILL VINTON IS RECEIVING THE AWARD FOR HIS PRODUCTION COMPANY, WILL VINTON PRODUCTIONS. WILL VINTON AND THE TALENTED ANIMATORS IN HIS PRODUCTION COMPANY ARE KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S LEADING PRACTITIONERS OF CLAY ANIMATION. WILL BEGAN WORKING WITH CLAY AS AN ARCHITECTURE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, AND HAS TAKEN THE RELATIVELY OBSCURE AND DIFFICULT TECHNIQUE OF MAKING CLAY MOVE (A TECHNIQUE OLDER THAN MICKEY MOUSE), ELEVATED IT, AND GIVEN IT NEW PRESTIGE AND IMPORTANCE.

IN 1975 WILL SHARED AN ACADEMY AWARD WITH JAMES ROBBINS GARDINER FOR THE FILM CLOSED MONDAYS. SINCE THEN WILL VINTON PRODUCTIONS HAS RECEIVED OVER 200 AWARDS INCLUDING AN ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION FOR THE CLASSIC RIP VAN WINKLE AND A RECENT ASPEN FILM FESTIVAL AWARD FOR THE CREATION. IN CREATING SOME OF THIS COUNTRY'S MOST IMAGINATIVE AND ARTISTICALLY UNIQUE FILMS, WILL VINTON PRODUCTIONS IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY AND ART FORM IN OREGON.

(HAND VASE TO RECIPIENT -- GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE.)