

2015-2016 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS: A CULTURAL SALUTE

2015-2016 will not only mark the 200th anniversary of the State, but it will also mark the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Arts Commission and the 22nd biennial Governor's Arts Awards. The Indiana Arts Commission will produce a "supercharged" Governor's Arts Awards, celebrating the rich cultural history of our State and the public support for the arts. Former honorees, Commissioners, Governors and First Ladies, civic leaders, etc. will augment the awards which will be given to 5-7 new honorees by Governor and First Lady Pence. Former honorees to be celebrated (and who may attend) would include Hoagy Carmichael, Robert Indiana, Cole Porter, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Eli Lilly, Herman B Wells, J. Irwin and Xenia Miller, Joshua Bell, Eugene and Marilyn Glick, Angela Brown, Cummins Engine Company, Indianapolis Museum of Art, and many others. The evening also features a commissioned work of art from a notable Indiana artist which is given to the year's honorees as the actual, physical award.



Governor Pence at the 2013 Governor's Arts Awards.
Photo © Angela Talley

Typically, Governor's Arts Awards has drawn about 1,000 attendees for a celebration dinner, performance and awards ceremony. The last four events were held in Bloomington, Muncie, South Bend, and Carmel and featured a combination of live performance and presentations, exhibitions, film and video. The event feels much like the Kennedy Center Honors or Grammy Awards - a fast-paced, multi dimensional, celebratory experience.

REACH AND IMPACT

The Arts Commission will select a central Indiana venue for the events, including a fully equipped theatrical/performance space, and assemble a steering Committee of Bicentennial leadership, current and emeritus Arts Commissioners, and notable arts patrons and leaders. **Attendance could range from 1,000 to 4,000 depending on venue capacities, local leadership involvement, etc. The event could also be held in conjunction with a Bicentennial Dinner/Gala Event, providing a noteworthy, enjoyable and engaging event celebrating our rich cultural heritage.** Traditionally, a portion of the proceeds are donated to the Indiana Cultural Trust, the Arts Commission's endowment serving arts education in Indiana.

FUNDING, RESOURCES, AND LOGISTICS

The Commission invests approximately \$15,000 in the event, with additional funds from ticket sales and sponsorships. With projected attendance and expenses, **approximately \$50,000 in additional private funds would need to be raised.** Existing Arts Commission and contracted venue staff would serve as the workforce.