



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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### **SAN DIEGO ARTS LEADER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ARTS LEADERSHIP**

San Diego, CA— June 19, 2009 - At the annual Americans for the Arts national convention in Seattle, the **2009 Selina Roberts Ottum Award** for Arts Leadership was presented to **Victoria L. Hamilton**, executive director of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. Each year, the organization honors those who are committed to building communities through the arts. Presented since 1991 by Americans for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, this award recognizes the achievements of an individual who has made a meaningful contribution to the arts through arts leadership in the local arts agency field. This is only the second time the award has gone to a Californian.

“Victoria Hamilton’s dedication, leadership and support for the arts is unwavering,” said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “Her valued commitment and vision for the arts in San Diego deserves this recognition.”

“Victoria has certainly earned this recognition,” said San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. “She changed the way we support the arts in San Diego and continues to be an innovative force within City government,” he said. “Victoria has been a tireless advocate ever since taking the reins of our Commission for Arts and Culture more than 20 years ago,” said the Mayor. “Her vision has produced decades of success for our City and for our diverse arts and culture organizations,” he said. “I am proud to be working with Victoria and offer my congratulations for this important and well-deserved honor.”

“Victoria is an effective advocate and promoter of San Diego’s arts and culture,” added Commission Chair Colette Carson Royston. “I know the over 65 Commissioners who have served during her tenure join me in congratulating and thanking Victoria for her leadership, passion, creativity and commitment to our Vibrant Culture/Vibrant City.”

*The mission of the **City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture** is to vitalize the City by supporting the region's cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination. [www.sandiego.gov/arts-culture](http://www.sandiego.gov/arts-culture)*

***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 49 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. [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).*