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President Bush Announces The Nomination Of National Gallery Of Art Director Earl Powell To Serve On National Council On The Arts

June 13, 2002

Washington, D.C. - President Bush today announced the nomination of National Gallery of Art Director Earl A. Powell III to serve on the National Council on the Arts, the advisory body of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Powell has been director of the National Gallery of Art since 1992 and is an expert in 19th and 20th century European and American Art. Previously, he was director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for 12 years, and held curator positions at the National Gallery and the Michener Collection at the University of Texas at Austin. Earlier, he served in the U.S. Navy and was a commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Powell currently serves as a trustee of the American Federation of Arts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the White House Historical Association, among others. He is a member of numerous arts organizations including the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities, the Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies, the National Portrait Gallery Commission and the O'Keeffe Museum National Advisory Board.

Powell earned his bachelor's degree at Williams College and his master's and doctoral degrees in Art History at Harvard University. In addition to writing many journal articles and exhibition catalogue essays, Powell has authored a monograph on the artist Thomas Cole. His awards include Norway's King Olav Medal, the John Harvard Award for Community Service and the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor from France.

Powell's nomination will be reviewed by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) is the committee chairman and Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) is the ranking Republican member. Once confirmed, Powell will replace Townsend Wolfe III, Director and Chief Curator of the Arkansas Arts Center, on the Council for a term that expires in 2006.

The National Council on the Arts advises the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts on policies, programs, and procedures for carrying out the agency's functions, duties, and responsibilities. Council members are chosen for their widely recognized knowledge of the arts, their expertise or profound interest in the arts and their established record of distinguished

service or achievement in the arts.

For more information about the National Council on the Arts and for a complete list of its members, visit http://www.arts.gov/learn/NCA/About_NCA.html or call the National Endowment for the Arts Office of Communications at 202-682-5570.

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