

THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY
DUKE ELLINGTON
WASHINGTON, D.C. | **JAZZ FESTIVAL**



Duke Ellington Jazz Festival Selected as Innovation In the Arts Finalist for Mayors Arts Award

Award Winners Announced at March 23 Ceremony at John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center Presided Over by Mayor Adrian M. Fenty

Washington, DC – February 24, 2009 -- A blue ribbon arts panel for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities has selected Festivals DC, Ltd, which produces the annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, from a list of 91 eligible nominees as a finalist for the Mayor's Arts Award in the category of Innovation in the Arts.



CELEBRATING NEW ORLEANS

Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr.
Honorary Co-Chairman

Walter Isaacson
Honorary Co-Chairman

Marc H. Morial
Honorary Co-Chairman

Sheila C. Johnson
*Honorary Chairman of
the Ovation Society*

Claude E. Bailey
Chairman of the Board

Charles Fishman
Executive Producer

Sunny Sumter
Managing Director

Paquito D'Rivera
Artistic Adviser

The Mayor's Arts Award is the most prestigious honor given by the District of Columbia in recognition of artistic excellence and service among artists, organizations, and patrons in the District. Each year, the award ceremony brings awareness to the presence and vitality of the arts community in the city and offers on-stage performances by some of the finest talent in DC. Past recipients of include Leonard Slatkin, Roberta Flack, Shirley Horn and Peggy Cooper Cafritz. More than 1,200 dignitaries, arts enthusiasts and arts supporters from the general public are expected to attend this year's event.

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities will present the 24th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6 pm in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty will preside. Award recipients in all categories will be selected from among the finalists and announced live from the stage.

Duke Ellington Jazz Festival. With over 100 performances in more than 45 venues across the city, the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival (DEJF) is the largest music festival in Washington, DC, and is a highly anticipated cultural event in the nation's capital. It has received widespread praise for its impressive mix of local, nationally and internationally-known artists and its presentation of programs and performances at diverse venues in different neighborhoods of the District. Signature events at the DEJF include free, all-day concerts on the National Mall, which last year attracted more than 40,000 people. The DEJF's mission is to provide enriching and entertaining programs that attract the broadest possible demographic to jazz; use jazz as a form of arts education; honor DC's own Duke Ellington and other jazz greats; and add to

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the city's rich jazz history, further enhancing the nation's capital city as a premier cultural destination.

The 5th annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival will feature a spectacular celebration of New Orleans and is scheduled for June 5-15, 2009. Performing artists include Grammy Award-winner, Terence Blanchard; Buckwheat Zydeco; Rebirth Brass Band; Irma Thomas; Nicholas Payton; and Davell Crawford. Pianist/composer/educator Ellis Marsalis will be honored at the festival's annual Jazz Masters concert presented at and in conjunction with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. *(artists subject to change)*



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DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Since 1968, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities has supported community development through the arts by promoting artistic excellence in the nation's capital. Since its inception in 1981, the Mayor's Arts Awards has honored some of the most outstanding artists and art patrons in the Washington, DC, area. **Please visit DCArts.DC.Gov for more information. Admission for this event is free. Tickets will not be issued. General public RSVPs are not required.**