



Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
announces

## ARTS ACROSS AMERICA

**Campaign to highlight thriving arts communities across the nation**

*Community convenings featuring local arts leaders and Kennedy Center leadership to take place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on April 22 and 23, and Braddock, Pennsylvania on June 8*

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces **Arts Across America**, a campaign that leverages the resources of the nation’s cultural center to recognize thriving arts communities across the country. Through community outreach and one-day events, *Arts Across America* will spotlight everyday cities and towns that are using the arts to promote connection, a strong creative economy, and cultural citizenship.

*Arts Across America* events are currently scheduled for **Fort Lauderdale, Florida on April 22 and 23**, and in **Braddock, Pennsylvania on June 8**. Participating Kennedy Center leadership includes Artistic Advisor at Large **Yo-Yo Ma**, Chairman **David M. Rubenstein**, and President **Deborah F. Rutter**. *A schedule of events for Fort Lauderdale is on page 2; media opportunities and interviews are available by arrangement.*

“Art happens *everywhere*—in towns large and small, in schools, retirement homes, shelters, and more. As the nation’s cultural center, the Kennedy Center plays a leading role in celebrating all of the great art happening in all corners of our country,” said Kennedy Center President Deborah F. Rutter. “*Arts Across America* will spotlight diverse and thriving arts communities. We are thrilled to visit communities across the nation, to listen, learn, and elevate the people and local institutions that are doing great work with and through the arts.”

Ms. Rutter continued: “As the country’s leading philanthropic patriot, David M. Rubenstein has inspired us to seek out and celebrate arts, artists, and communities that make our country great. We are indebted to David for this inspiration, and for the generosity that makes *Arts Across America* possible.”

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*Arts Across America* events are tailored to each community, and local leaders partner with Kennedy Center staff to design a day of activities aligned to the community's cultural landscape and goals. Activities may include:

- Community-based arts activities and visits to outstanding local arts programs;
- Intentional engagement of underrepresented communities, such as veterans, older people, or incarcerated populations;
- Large-scale Cultural Conversations, featuring local and national arts leaders;
- Meetings with civic and business leaders;
- School visits and performances with students;
- Collaborative performances between Kennedy Center artists and local artists.

Through these activities, the Kennedy Center will offer a forum for dialogue and a rallying point for communities' current and future efforts in arts engagement and cultural citizenship.

Anticipated outcomes of *Arts Across America* include increased local and national recognition of the powerful role that arts, artists, and arts organizations can play in strengthening our social fabric. All *Arts Across America* communities will be invited to participate in the Kennedy Center's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2021.

The first *Arts Across America* event was piloted earlier this year in Corona, California. Information about future *Arts Across America* communities will be available at a later date.

### ***ARTS ACROSS AMERICA: FORT LAUDERDALE: Sunday, April 22 and Monday, April 23***

Local organizations have partnered with the Kennedy Center to plan *Arts Across America* activities that highlight the vibrant cultural landscape of Fort Lauderdale and inspire connections with a diverse cross-section of the community. Partners include: The Broward Center for the Performing Arts; ArtServe, Inc.; FATVillage; Business for the Arts Broward; the Urban League of Broward County; Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance; Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; Brazilian Voices; Hispanic Unity; and FAU College of Arts & Letters. Most activities take place in the Sistrunk neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale.

*Please note that the following schedule may change without notice. Media are invited to attend events in bold via prior arrangement with Michelle Pendoley, Kennedy Center Public Relations ([mapendoley@kennedy-center.org](mailto:mapendoley@kennedy-center.org) or C: 202-567-1405).*

#### **Sunday, April 22, 2018**

**10:00 a.m.: Visit with [ArtServe](#)**, including brief performances with local dancers and poets

**11:30 a.m.: Tour of [FATVillage](#) Arts District with local business leaders**

Noon: Lunch with local business leaders (closed event)

**2-3:00 p.m.: Cultural Conversation at [Parker Playhouse](#) – FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- Featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the Urban League's Germaine Smith-Baugh, U.S. Representative Ted Deutch (FI-22); Commissioner Chip LaMarca
- Moderated by Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein, with opening remarks by Kennedy Center President Deborah F. Rutter.
- Brief performances by local artists

*(more)*

*Schedule of events for Sunday, April 22 (continued)*

3:30-4:00 p.m.: Pop-up performance for at-risk youth (closed event)

**5:30-6:30 p.m.: A Gathering to Remember: A Musical Offering – BY INVITE ONLY**

Dillard High School, 2501 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale

- An invite-only concert for students and families affected by gun violence
- Featuring students from Dillard High School, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, multitaled instrumentalist Cristina Pato, Dillard High School dancers and jazz band; Drake Irish School of Dance; Melo Groove Steel Drums; and the Brazilian Voices choir

**Monday, April 23, 2018**

**9:00 a.m.: Walker Elementary School visit with Yo-Yo Ma**

**11:00 a.m.: Dillard High School visit with Yo-Yo Ma**

**ABOUT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President Kennedy. Under the guidance of Chairman [David M. Rubenstein](#), and President [Deborah F. Rutter](#), the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract more than three million visitors to more than 2,000 performances each year, while center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts reach 40 million more around the world.

The Center produces and presents performances of music, dance, comedy, Hip Hop, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the [National Symphony Orchestra](#) and [Washington National Opera](#), the Center has produced more than 300 theatrical productions, and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works, in addition to hosting numerous international cultural festivals. The Center's Emmy® and Peabody Award-winning [The Kennedy Center Honors](#) is broadcast annually on CBS and annual [The Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for American Humor](#) is broadcast on PBS.

The education programs of the Kennedy Center, including those of its affiliate [VSA](#), the international organization on arts and disability, have become models for communities across the country and have unlocked the door to learning for millions of young people. [Education at the Kennedy Center](#) produces and presents age appropriate performances and educational events, and fosters innovative programming, curriculum, and professional development for students, teachers, and families.

The Center and its affiliates stage more than 400 free performances by artists from throughout the world each year on the Center's main stages, and every day of the year at 6 p.m. on its Millennium Stages, which are also streamed live, online. The Center also offers reduced and complimentary tickets to young people, active members of the military, and the underserved through its [MyTix program](#) and offers a Specially Priced Tickets program for students, seniors, persons with disabilities, and others with fixed low incomes.

To learn more about the Kennedy Center, please visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

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## **FUNDING CREDITS**

*Major support for Arts Across America is provided by **David M. Rubenstein.***

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#KennedyCenter #ArtsAcrossAmerica

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## **PRESS CONTACT**

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