



Contact: Greg Liakos, Communications Director,  
617-727-3668 x343, [greg.liakos@art.state.ma.us](mailto:greg.liakos@art.state.ma.us)

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## STATE TO HONOR ARTS & CULTURAL LEADERS WEDNESDAY

**WHAT:** Governor Deval Patrick and leaders of the state Legislature will join the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), MassHumanities, and Bank of America, to honor exceptional achievement in the arts, humanities, and sciences at the biennial [Commonwealth Awards](#). Performers include the Longwood Symphony Orchestra, the *Las Pleneras de La Villa* dancers from Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, and Lynn Chang of Newton, who will reprise his historic performance at the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo.

**WHERE:** Massachusetts State House, Boston

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

**WHO:** Governor Patrick; Senate President Therese Murray of Plymouth, Senator Eileen Donoghue of Lowell and Representative Sarah Peake of Provincetown, the newly named co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development; leaders from Commonwealth Award winners Williamstown Theatre Festival, Plimoth Plantation, Longwood Symphony, Villa Victoria, Team Haverhill, Turners Falls RiverCulture; MassArt President Dr. Katherine Sloan; arts philanthropists Ted Cutler and Nancy Jane Fitzpatrick; Nancy Barile, Revere High School English teacher; Anita Walker, MCC Executive Director; State Treasurer Steven Grossman; Reps. Kathi-Ann Reinstein of Revere and Brian Dempsey of Haverhill; Senators Sonia Chang-Diaz and Stan Rosenberg; other leaders of the Mass. Legislature; Pittsfield Mayor James Ruberto.

**WHY:** Presented every two years by MCC, the Commonwealth Awards shine a spotlight on the extraordinary contributions of the arts, sciences, and humanities to the educational, economic, and civic life of Massachusetts. The Awards ceremony brings together the nonprofit cultural sector to assert its value and make the case for public investment in its work. For more information go to <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/conference/comawards.asp>