

NEWS RELEASE

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SHIRLEY CHANN TO RECEIVE 5th ANNUAL SHELLEY AWARD FOR ARTS ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT AT GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS APRIL 19

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Feb. 19, 2010): Shirley Chann, a 40-year resident of Tucson and a longtime ardent supporter and advocate of the arts, will receive the 5th annual Shelley Arts Advocate Award at the redesigned and streamlined Governor's Arts Awards at The Orpheum Theatre on Monday, April 19.

The Shelley Award, presented to an Arizona individual who has advanced the arts through strategic and innovative work in creating or supporting public policy beneficial to the arts in Arizona, is named for Shelley Cohn, who spent more than 25 years as executive director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Individual tickets purchased before March 31 are \$135 and \$150 after that date. A range of sponsorship levels also are available.

Born in China, Chann is retired from Pima Community College where she was a computer science professor. Her impressive arts' resume includes an appointment by former Governor Janet Napolitano to the Arizona Commission on the Arts; a nomination by Congressman Jim Kolbe as a National Trustee of the National Symphony Orchestra, an Affiliate of the Kennedy Center; and most recently, as a member of the University of Arizona College of Fine Arts Dean's Board.

But those positions barely tell Chann's story. She was a co-founder of the Tucson Arts Odyssey (TAO), a celebration of all the arts; co-chaired the Family Arts Festival; served on the board of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona and chaired various committees including development, program, building, and committee of trustees; served on advisory boards of U of A School of Music, Friends of the Library, and UApresents, and Pima Community College Foundation Board.

"Shirley Chann has been a remarkably consistent, highly influential and quietly effective champion of the arts for many years," said Arizona Commission on the Arts Executive Director Robert Booker. "Though her primary focus has been on building and sustaining the arts in Tucson and Southern Arizona, her passion and support for the arts is reflected in her recognition on a national scale."

Chann's diverse community involvement has also led to other awards including Volunteer Fund Raiser of the Year by the Association of Professional Fundraisers, Rotary Club Four Way Test Award, YWCA Women on the Move and Lifetime Achievement Awards, University of Arizona Alumnae Distinguished Citizen Award, and UApresents Philanthropy Award.

“Shirley Chann strives to make Arizona better,” said Brenda Sperduti, Executive Director of Arizona Citizens for the Arts. “She has built a legacy of giving, caring and advocacy that should serve as a guide for those looking to give back to their communities.”

The Governor’s Arts Awards have been presented annually since 1981 by Arizona Citizens for the Arts, the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Office of the Governor to recognize outstanding achievement and contributions to the Arizona arts community.

Honorees in all categories will receive specially created wood pieces by Arizona artists.

The new format replaces the sit-down dinner with pre-event cocktails and hors d’oeuvres from 5:30 to 7 p.m., a one-hour presentation of awards from 7-8 p.m. and a post-presentation dessert reception from 8-9 p.m.

Sponsorships, which are based on ten-ticket packages, begin at \$2500 for individuals and businesses, and \$1350 to \$1500 for arts and culture not-for-profit organizations. Sponsorships include appropriate recognition at the event and in marketing materials.

For questions, additional information, sponsorships or ticket purchases, call Arizona Citizens for the Arts at (602) 253-6535 or visit www.GovernorsArtsAwards.org.

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Arizona Citizens for the Arts

Arizona Citizens for the Arts is the premier arts advocacy organization in Arizona dedicated to the mission of discussion and awareness of the importance and impact of the arts in achieving quality of life, educational excellence and economic health for all Arizonans and Arizona enterprises. For information visit www.azcitizensforthearts.org

Arizona Commission on the Arts

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is the state agency that connects artists and communities. The Commission features many diverse programs and services for Arizona residents. For information visit www.azarts.gov.

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