

As Prepared for Delivery  
Governor's Arts Awards Remarks  
September 26, 2013

Thank you for that generous introduction Tania Castroverde Moskalenko and Trevor Yager. It is a pleasure to join you all as we celebrate the arts here in the Hoosier state.

Tonight, let me echo the words of President John F. Kennedy who said, "I look forward to an America that will reward achievement in the arts as we award achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. And I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world, not only for its strength, but for its civilization as well."

Tonight, as we honor these artists and patrons of the arts, we will do just that. And by rewarding the arts, we seek to inspire and encourage future generations of Hoosiers to pursue their own artistic visions.

The arts offer us the unique experience of seeing through another's eyes. Whether it be a landscape painting or an abstract sculpture; an opera or a children's choir; a film or a ballet—the arts, in every form, help each of us see the world differently. They help us appreciate another's viewpoint. They help us find a new perspective. They inform, they educate, they enlighten.

Artists and performers draw upon their culture, history and experiences to share with us—the audience, the observer—their own, unique world view. They share, passionately, their thoughts and feelings about the world around them. We are privileged to be able to share their perspective, even if just for a moment.

That is something to be celebrated. So, tonight we reward achievement in the arts. We will recognize Indiana's own who are raising the standards of artistic accomplishment, and providing new cultural opportunities for all Hoosiers.

Indiana has an impressive history of significant contributions to the arts. Home to artists like T.C. Steele and Robert Indiana, designers Bill Blass and Michael Graves, and filmmakers such as Angelo Pizzo, who is here with us tonight, Indiana has inspired and encouraged generations of Hoosiers.

We are fortunate to live in a state that has long recognized the value of the arts. We applaud the Indiana Arts Commission for their advocacy and support of the arts over the past 45 years, and for their efforts to bring the arts to all corners of our state.

The arts make Indiana, and its people, better—often in very concrete ways.

We know that the arts are a powerful tool for economic development, community revitalization, and cultural tourism, all of which mean greater opportunities for job creation. Cities from Hammond to Rising Sun have been recognized with a Governor's Arts Award for making the arts a fundamental part of economic development. We encourage continued efforts to make the arts an even greater part of the fabric of Indiana.

Without question, Indiana's finest natural resource is the talent of its people. Before we announce tonight's award winners, I'd like to thank Governor's Arts Award artist William Galloway for sharing his talents tonight. William was commissioned by the Arts Commission to create tonight's award pieces, which, artistically sculpted from Indiana limestone, reflect both the delicate as well as powerful nature of dance. Art itself is a delicate balance but can be a powerful force.

In addition to creating these awards, William generously offered to create six, ten-foot tall versions of the awards presented here tonight. Once completed, five of these statues will later be transported to Indiana's Certified Cultural Districts where they will add to the central focus of the arts in those communities. William, we applaud your talent and we are grateful for your generosity.

To the recipients of tonight's awards—thank you for helping to enrich the artistic culture of our state and nation. Indiana is better because of your contributions, and tonight we celebrate you.

Now, it is my honor and privilege to introduce to you a wonderfully gifted water color artist, a passionate educator, a devoted mother, and the First Lady of the great state of Indiana, my wife of 28 years, Karen Pence.