



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Announces Roswell Artist and Oil Company Executive Honored by the National Governors Association

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that Donald B. Anderson of Roswell has been selected by the National Governors Association (NGA) as one of eight recipients of the 2006 Distinguished Service Awards, which will be presented at NGA's upcoming Annual Meeting August 5, 2006 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Anderson is receiving this year's NGA Distinguished Service Award for Arts Support for his lifetime passion for art and for enhancing the cultural environment of Roswell and southeastern New Mexico by bringing artists of national importance to live and work in the tranquility of the high plains.

Anderson was nominated to receive the national Distinguished Service Award by Governor Bill Richardson.

"Don Anderson has put Roswell on the map as an arts destination, which helps to promote economic development and tourism in New Mexico," said Governor Bill Richardson. "The Anderson museum and the residency program have broadened community understanding and appreciation of contemporary art in our state."

Anderson, an accomplished artist in his own right, was selected to receive the 2006 Distinguished Service Award for establishing the Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program in 1967 and for opening the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art in 1994 in Roswell to showcase art produced by alumni of the Artist-in-Residence program.

The Roswell Artist-in-Residence program, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2007, is renowned for providing artists with "The Gift of Time," the opportunity to work without distraction in their efforts to break new ground and focus on individual goals. Through the program – which has become a model for artist residencies around the world – gifted studio-based visual artists are given a unique opportunity to concentrate on their work in a supportive, collegial environment for an entire year.

"As an artist himself, Don Anderson understands the importance of giving artists the opportunity to work undisturbed for a full year," said Governor Bill Richardson. "The Gift of Time is a great gift by a great New Mexican."

More than 150 artists from all over the United States, as well as Europe, Australia and the Orient, have participated in the Roswell residency program. Several have received the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, New Mexico's highest honor for artists.

Anderson, the owner and chief executive officer of Anderson Oil Co. headquartered in Denver, Colo., received the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence to the Arts in 1983 as a major contributor to the arts. A painting by Anderson is on display at the State Capitol in Santa Fe as part of the Capitol Art Foundation collection.

The Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art in Roswell houses more than 300 works of art in seven galleries, with 17,000 square feet of exhibition space. Anderson also has provided opportunities for young artists in a one-week, no-cost summer camp for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

Each year, the National Governors Association presents eight awards for distinguished service to the states, including three awards for state officials, three for private citizens and two for distinguished service to the Arts. The NGA Awards for Distinguished Service to the Arts, established in 1980, are given in two areas: artistic production and arts support. The arts awards recognize outstanding service to the arts, focusing on contributions that improve the quality of life and bring distinction to a state or community. This year's arts review panel, comprised of three permanent representatives from the arts community, was chaired by Janet Huckabee, First Lady of Arkansas and wife of NGA Chairman and Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee.

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