



## NEWS AND INFORMATION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

09/23/2009

### Statement in Response to Inaccuracies Published by Bighollywood.breitbart.com

**To:** Andrew Breitbart, bighollywood.breitbart.com  
Patrick Courrielche, bighollywood.breitbart.com  
Ben Shapiro, bighollywood.breitbart.com  
John Nolte, bighollywood.breitbart.com  
Mike Flynn, bighollywood.breitbart.com  
Kerry Picket, *The Washington Times*  
David Mastio, *The Washington Times*  
George Will, *The Washington Post*  
Sean Hannity, Fox News  
John Finley, Fox News  
David Freddoso, *Washington Examiner*

**From:** Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts

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Immediate corrections about Americans for the Arts need to be made to stories that you have published in various newspapers, blogs, television, and radio programs.

Americans for the Arts was not a participant on an August 10, 2009, conference call involving the National Endowment for the Arts. Moreover, not one of the 21 groups who signed a health care and the arts statement was on the August 10, 2009, conference call. There is absolutely no connection between these two events. On September 13, 2009, Americans for the Arts immediately informed *The Washington Times*, who originally published this error, of its mistake. Americans for the Arts also submitted the statement via an online contact form at bighollywood.breitbart.com.

*The Washington Times* later published an unconfirmed invitation list to the August 10 conference call, speculating that actress Kerry Washington had participated on the call. The

affiliation next to Ms. Washington's name is incorrect. Ms. Washington is not, nor has ever been, a board member of Americans for the Arts. Ms. Washington is a member of the Americans for the Arts Artists Committee. Artists Committee members are occasionally invited by Americans for the Arts to speak at specific Americans for the Arts events. Ms. Washington was never asked to speak on behalf of or represent Americans for the Arts for an August 10 conference call with the National Endowment for the Arts. In fact, Americans for the Arts had never heard of the August 10 conference call until news reports in early September. On September 15, 2009, Americans for the Arts informed *The Washington Times* of this error as well.

I ask that you immediately correct these false claims accordingly. They are harmful to our reputation, and for some recipients on this list, this is not the first time we alerted you to this material error. Should you wish to talk about this further, you can reach me at 202-371-2830 or via e-mail at [rlynch@artsusa.org](mailto:rlynch@artsusa.org).

**Americans for the Arts** is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of more than 50 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).

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