



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARTS ORANGE COUNTY WILL PRESENT ITS  
13<sup>TH</sup> CREATIVE EDGE LECTURE ON FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>  
FEATURING  
DR. MARIA ROSARIO JACKSON  
CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

**DECEMBER 1, 2022 - IRVINE, CALIFORNIA – Arts Orange County announced today it will present a live, in person talk by Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson as its 13<sup>th</sup> Creative Edge Lecture on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 10 am, in the Irvine Barclay Theatre. Admission to the lecture is free of charge thanks to the generosity of sponsors, but reservations are required through the Irvine Barclay Theatre ticket office. The Creative Edge Lecture is presented in partnership with the [Orange County Department of Education](#) and the [4<sup>th</sup> District PTA](#).**

For more than 25 years, Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson’s work has focused on understanding and elevating arts, culture, and design as critical elements of healthy communities. Her work blends social science and arts- and humanities-based approaches to comprehensive community revitalization, systems change, the dynamics of race and ethnicity, and the roles of arts and culture in communities. After confirmation by the U.S. Senate in December 2021, Dr. Jackson became the 13th chair of the National Endowment for the Arts in January 2022. With this historic appointment, Dr. Jackson is the nation’s first NEA chair to be an African American and Mexican American woman. Dr. Jackson’s full bio and official photo may be found [here](#).

“When she was nominated by President Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, Dr. Jackson was already a longtime leading voice on the importance of arts and culture in our nation,” commented Richard Stein, President and CEO of Arts Orange County. “In her role as head of our Federal government’s arts agency, she is well-positioned to observe the role creativity plays in the life of American communities. We are exceptionally pleased that she will spend time with us to share her observations and to inspire artists, arts leaders, arts patrons, and students at our much-anticipated annual Creative Edge Lecture. Adding special importance to her appearance, this will be the first visit to Orange County by a National Endowment for the Arts Chair since 1988—a period during which our arts community has grown tremendously in vitality and diversity.”

Ticket reservations may be made [here](#).

Past **Creative Edge Lecture** speakers have included thought-leaders and best-selling authors on creativity, innovation, and arts education, as well as two U.S. Poets Laureate: Daniel K. Pink (2010), Sir Ken Robinson (2011), Randy Nelson (2012), Tom Kelley (2013), John Maeda (2014),

Sarah Lewis (2015), Dr. Charles Limb (2016), Juan Felipe Herrera (2017), Dr. Robert Duke (2018), Vijay Gupta (2019), Joy Harjo (2020), and Donn K. Harris (2022).

**Arts Orange County** (ArtsOC) is the independent nonprofit arts council for Orange County, California, and is dedicated to sustaining, strengthening, and advancing its creative ecology. Designated by the County Board of Supervisors as its official local arts agency, ArtsOC is our community's leading advocate and service provider for the arts and arts education.

<https://artsoc.org/>

**The Orange County Department of Education** (OCDE) serves some of Orange County's most vulnerable student populations and provides support and mandated fiscal oversight to 28 school districts serving more than 600 schools and approximately 475,000 students.

<https://ocde.us>

**Fourth District PTA** is an organization of the twenty councils which represent all of Orange County (California) PTA members as well as members in a small portion of Los Angeles County. The mission of the Fourth District PTA is to empower councils, units, families and community members to become effective advocates for all children and youth.

<https://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/>

**National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA), established in Congress in 1965, is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts. By advancing equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, the NEA fosters and sustains an environment in which the arts benefit everyone in the United States. <https://www.arts.gov/>

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