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APAP now accepting nominations for APAP Awards

Newly named, virtual ceremony “The APAP Honors” to celebrate trailblazers and visionaries in the performing arts on May 6, 2021.

(Washington, DC) March 2, 2021 – The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) announced yesterday that it is accepting nominations for the APAP Awards. For decades, the coveted awards have been presented annually as part of the APAP Awards Ceremony, traditionally held at the annual APAP|NYC conference. **This year’s event---renamed The APAP Honors---will be held virtually on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. (EDT)**, and will feature the APAP Awards, the Annual NAPAMA Awards, and for the first time, a special presentation of the Halsey & Alice North Award for APAP Board Alumni. This online event will be free and open-to-the-public. Information on how to attend will be released later this spring.

“This year marks a first for the awards program as a standalone event and allows us to focus on the laudable achievements of performing arts professionals and their indelible contributions to the field. This year’s event is remarkable *because* of the times,” explains APAP President and CEO Lisa Richards Toney. “The opportunity to deepen reflection and pay homage to the significance of our traditionally robust performing arts ecosystem is timely as we all muscle our strength to preserve it. In honoring our own, we remember *who* we are and are inspired to proclaim *why* our work matters and that we are worth fighting for.”

Beginning March 1, 2021, individuals who are APAP members or part of an APAP member organization are eligible and invited to nominate artists, organizations, agents, managers, presenters, and other arts professionals for the APAP Awards.

The four APAP Awards open for nominations are:

- THE AWARD OF MERIT FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PERFORMING ARTS
- THE SIDNEY R. YATES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THE PERFORMING ARTS
- THE WILLIAM DAWSON AWARD FOR PROGRAMMATIC EXCELLENCE AND SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT IN PROGRAMMING



- THE FAN TAYLOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL PRESENTING

Nominees are not required to be APAP members. **The deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (EDT).** Nominations are reviewed by an Advisory Committee of arts professionals and supporters. The submission guidelines and the online nomination form can be found at <http://bit.ly/APAPAwardsNoms2021>. The 2021 honorees will be announced in mid-April.

As part of its ongoing commitment to advancing Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the performing arts field, APAP encourages nominations of individuals who identify as people of color, Native and Indigenous, LGBTQIA2S+, women, people with disabilities, and those who demonstrate and promote values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. APAP also encourages nominations of people who are under the age of 35.

Since 2011, APAP has welcomed North American Performing Arts Agents And Managers (NAPAMA) to present its awards at APAP's annual awards event. Every year, NAPAMA recognizes two performing arts industry colleagues---an agent-manager and a presenter--with citations of excellence. In January, NAPAMA announced winners of its 2021 awards; Kevin Spencer, Self-Represented Artist, Educator and Advocate, Hocus Focus, Inc. will receive the Liz Silverstein Award for Agent-Manager of the Year, and Hollis Ashby, Artistic and Executive Director, Williams Center for the Arts will receive the NAPAMA Award for Presenter of the Year.

"At a time when agents, managers, presenters and self-represented artists are struggling to find the 'new normal' in their daily professional lives, we need to lift each other up whenever possible," explained NAPAMA President Gail Boyd, "I am honored to present these two awards to an Agent/Educator and a Presenter who exemplify excellence in their work."

Established in 2013, the Halsey & Alice North Board Alumni Award is presented to an APAP Board Alum who "has demonstrated in their words and actions the beautiful spirit of generosity and giving, not only on a continuing basis to Association of Performing Arts Professionals, but to the field at large". The award is named in honor of Halsey and Alice North, whose commitment to the association and the field of presenting is well recognized. In previous years, the Award was presented at a APAP board gathering. In 2021, the award will be presented at larger APAP awards ceremony for the first time.

"With this Award, we honor the Board Alumni who have helped APAP be successful in providing our field with the nourishment, information, and contacts we all need to survive and thrive. Winners of this award are recognized for their years of dedicated service to



APAP before, during, and after their board terms,” stated Halsey and Alice North, who have been APAP members since 1975.

Each year, APAP honors artists, visionaries and advocates in the performing arts through the APAP Awards. These awards celebrate those individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a significant impact on the industry and communities they serve both in the U.S. and abroad. For more information about the Awards, including past recipients, visit <https://www.apap365.org/Programs/APAP-Honors-2021>.

The APAP Honors is sponsored by IMG Artists (<https://imgartists.com/>). Learn more about sponsoring this and other APAP events here: <https://www.apap365.org/About/Advertising-and-Sponsorship>.

About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals

APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust, performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,700 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by **President and CEO Lisa Richards Toney** (<https://www.apap365.org/About/Who-We-Are/Staff/Lisa-Richards-Toney>). In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference—the world's leading gathering and marketplace for the performing arts—APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting, booking and touring. For more information, visit <https://www.apap365.org>.

About NAPAMA

NAPAMA, the North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents, promotes the best interests of professionals engaged in the touring of the performing arts through building and sharing knowledge, advocacy, leadership, and innovation. Committed to the core values of equity, diversity and inclusion, NAPAMA provides members with a platform for networking, communication, information exchange, resource identification, trends in the field, research, and best practices.

About The North Group, Inc.



Halsey and Alice North headed The North Group Inc. from 1987 to 2018, providing an integrated approach to planning, board development, and fundraising for nonprofit performing arts centers and historic theaters across the country. They have been active in APAP as board members, teachers, volunteers, board emeritus, honorary lifetime members, fundraisers, and donors. Halsey was honored with the Fan Taylor Award in 1988. Halsey and Alice were the first recipients of the Halsey & Alice North Award in 2013 in recognition of their commitment to APAP and their leadership in the field.

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