

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Press Release

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### PHYLLIS J. WASHINGTON NAMED KENNEDY CENTER TRUSTEE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — August 20th, 2019 — President Donald J. Trump announced Thursday the appointment of Phyllis J. Washington to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Phyllis Washington, chairperson of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, is one of two new appointees to this prestigious governing board, which has 36 presidentially appointed members. Mrs. Washington will serve a six year term.

“I’m truly honored to be selected as a Kennedy Center trustee,” Mrs. Washington said. “The Kennedy Center’s position as a worldwide leader in the performing arts community is unparalleled, and I am thrilled to be involved in the Center’s contribution to the human spirit. I look forward to working with the Kennedy Center to further outreach to rural communities and enhance arts in education promoting the development of the whole child.”

Mrs. Washington was raised in Great Falls, Montana, and received her B.A. in Education in 1964 from the University of Montana, where she met her husband, Dennis. The Washingtons have been married 55 years and have two children and six grandchildren. Mrs. Washington taught elementary school in Missoula for several years, and later employed her talent as an interior decorator and antiquarian. For over 20 years, Phyllis Washington Antiques/Maison Felice located in Palm Desert, California, is well known across the country for its one-of-a-kind antiques. Mrs. Washington’s interest in education led to the popular Cultural Lecture Series held at Maison Felice.

Mrs. Washington has had a long-time passion for education, as she and Dennis believe that access to a high-quality education is the single most important determinant to success in life. She has served several terms on the University of Montana Foundation Board of Trustees and chaired a record-setting UM capital campaign, a five-year effort for which she received UM’s 1999 Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award. Mrs. Washington was instrumental in construction of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education at the University of Montana, designed to train educators in the latest technologies and methods. In 2009, Mrs. Washington was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education from UM. In 2011, the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education at UM was renamed in recognition of her lifelong support for education. In addition to her commitment to education, as honorary co-chair of the

Montana Special Olympics, Mrs. Washington encourages and empowers individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Mrs. Washington also serves on the national board of Young Life, a nondenominational Christian ministry that reaches out to middle school, high school and college-aged kids in all 50 states as well as more than 90 countries around the world. The Washingtons donated a 64,000-acre ranch in Oregon in 1997 that became the Young Life Washington Family Ranch, hosting thousands of youth each summer.

Mrs. Washington is an active participant in Kennedy Center activities nationwide, including serving as the Vice-Chair for the National Committee for the Performing Arts. The NCPA was established in 1993 to support, enhance and advocate national arts education through the Kennedy Center. She was also instrumental in the creation of SPARK! Arts Missoula, a national partnership site for the Kennedy Center's Any Given Child Initiative, a growing network of communities working to transform learning and ensure access to the arts for every public school student.

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#### **About the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President Kennedy and the nation's busiest performing arts facility. In its seven theaters and on its free Millennium Stage, the Center presents an array of arts performances. Millions around the nation attend Kennedy Center touring productions and tune in to Kennedy Center television and radio broadcasts. The Kennedy Center's innovative arts education programs offer lifelong learning opportunities in the arts that benefit young people, educators, families, and adults in the national capital area and in every state in the nation. For more information visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

#### **About the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation**

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation is the major philanthropic organization for The Washington Companies and the Washington family. The Washington Companies were founded by Montana industrialist Dennis Washington, and focus on core industries in seven primary sectors: rail transportation, marine transportation, mining, heavy equipment sales, aviation technology and environmental remediation. The Foundation strives to better the human condition by supporting programs and services that give people the tools to enhance the quality of their lives and to benefit society as a whole. Annually, the Foundation also supports hundreds of needs-based scholarships to assist youth in accessing higher education, including the prestigious Horatio Alger Dennis Washington Leadership Graduate Scholarship. Funding for the Foundation comes from personal contributions from the Washington family and annual contributions from the private Washington Companies. Since its inception in 1988, Foundation giving and the Washington family's personal contributions and pledges to charitable causes total more than a third of a billion dollars. For more information visit [www.dpwfoundation.org](http://www.dpwfoundation.org)