

Thank you, Daryl and thank you to the selection committee. Given the many great advocates we have, your choice had to be difficult.

Many, many people have worked very hard for over 50 years to make Phoenix Art Museum a true cultural point of pride for Phoenix and for Arizona. I am thrilled to receive this prestigious award, named for a friend that I have truly respected and admired over the years, Shelley Cohn. And, to be among the other dedicated and talented previous recipients, makes it clear how much arts leadership we have in our great state. During my years at the Museum I have worked with 15 Board Chairmen and scores of Trustees who have always believed in me and in the Phoenix Art Museum. It seems like only yesterday that Don Tostenrud and Bud Jacobson, both Governor's Arts Award winners early on, and Trustees of the Museum, convinced me that heading the Phoenix Art Museum would be good for the Museum and our community. I hope I have lived up to their expectations. They, and our other Trustees have always believed we should be a leader locally, regionally and nationally, thus, I have had the time to advocate for many projects larger than our Museum that serve our cultural community. I would like to thank our Trustees for their help.

I have often said our Museum has three great assets: our collection, our staff and our volunteers. An institution truly is the people who build it and the people who use it. Tonight is a great example. In addition to my recognition, one of our staff members is nominated, one of our volunteers is nominated, one of our support organizations is nominated, and one of our annual Corporate Sponsors is nominated. That makes me and our Trustees very proud. I would like to thank all of our staff, volunteers and colleagues at other institutions who have helped me succeed on many goals over my years in Phoenix.

Over the years I have also had special support and encouragement from my wife, Linda, whose belief in the power of the arts to shape Arizonan's lives is as passionate as my own. In addition to her own career, she is always ready to help and offer insight and opinion. She has taught me a lot – she should – she has more art history degrees than I do! And our daughters and grandchildren continue to teach humility.

All of you in this room join Linda and me in knowing and believing in the power of art to shape lives, families and communities. Over the years I have seen tremendous growth in Arizona's cultural community and I have experienced, along with everyone else, the setbacks of recessions and downturns. We are severely challenged right now, but I know in the next few years we will see growth again. We all must be ready for that moment and seize the momentum. It is crucial that we identify dedicated revenue streams for our state's cultural amenities. All studies show voters will support it, but we must commit to work together with Arizona Citizens for the Arts and other organizations to make it happen when the time is right. I am convinced it is the only way to significantly transform our institutions. We have seen it first hand through successful bond elections in the metro Phoenix area. The people in this theatre can do that, so let's commit our institutions to incubate, innovate, create, educate and collaborate for all of the families in our great State!

Thank you again for this wonderful award.