

Global Art & Fashion Gala Celebrated America's 250th Anniversary at the Kennedy Center

Global Art & Fashion Gala celebrated America's 250th at the Kennedy Center, uniting nations through art, fashion, music, and cultural diplomacy.

WASHINGTON , DC, UNITED STATES, August 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Global Humanities Foundation proudly hosted the Global [Art](#) & Fashion Gala – America the Beautiful at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Held in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary, the gala brought together [ambassadors](#), diplomats, government officials, internationally acclaimed artists, fashion designers, musicians, educators, philanthropists, business leaders, and distinguished guests representing more than 15 countries. The evening celebrated creativity, freedom, diversity, friendship, and cultural diplomacy.

The program featured a VIP reception and private art viewing, an awards ceremony, world-class musical performances, and an international fashion showcase, demonstrating the power of the arts to strengthen international understanding and cooperation.



Featured Artists, Designers, and Global Humanities Foundation Board Members with Dr. Mehmet Oz: Ray Simon, Rose Hong, Julien Benichou, Dr. Samuel Hancock, Tset Wong, Bella Yanbo Huang, and Vanessa Broussard.



Washington Youth Orchestra with Maestro Julien Benichou and Violist Kelly Chu

Founder and Executive Director Rose Hong stated: "The arts provide a universal language that transcends borders. As America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, we are honored to bring together nations in a spirit of friendship, creativity, and mutual respect. Through art, fashion, and music, we celebrate the values that unite [humanity](#)."

Featured artists honored during the evening included Ray Simon, Bella Yanbo Huang, Elena Ruseva, Ahmed Alkarkhi, and Dr. Sonia Selwin. International designers represented the United States, Ecuador, India, Paraguay, the United Kingdom, France,

Poland, Russia, Italy, Finland, Austria, Lithuania, Canada, Hungary, Kazakhstan, and China. Featured designers included Bella Yanbo Huang, André Soriano, Glenkora Comte, Comtesse Isabel, Aleena Dhar, Julie Michelle Wilson (Encore Ballroom Couture), Randall Christensen, Sonia Garbarino, Chrisanne Clover, LUK Design, Melkinoff, FB International, Vesa Design, Emil Gampe (Emil Couture), Marius Kriukelis (MK Style), Feeling Mathieu Caron, Designs to Shine, Alexandra Smirnova, and the Qi Pao Collection.

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As America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, we unite nations through the universal languages of art, fashion, and music—celebrating art, music, fashion, and the values that connect humanity.”

Rose Hong



Global Fashion Show Designers with Models

The musical program featured the National Chamber Ensemble, Washington Asian Youth Orchestra, and Washington Dunhuang Guzheng Ensemble, under the artistic leadership of Maestro Julien Benichou and Dr. Gary Xiao. Featured performers included Kelly Cho, Jessica Gu, and Rachel Holt. The evening concluded with a stirring performance of "God Bless America" by Lt. Col. Rose-Ann Lynch, USMC (Ret.).

The Masters of Ceremonies were Emmy Award-nominated television anchor Vanessa Broussard and media personality Chris O'Neil. Award presenters included Dr. Samuel Hancock, Chairman of the Board of the Global Humanities Foundation; Rose Hong and Tset Wong, Founders of the Global Humanities Foundation; Bella Yanbo Huang, Chairman of the Global Art Competition; Stuart Hitchings; Dr. Gerard Janco, President of the America-Eurasia Art Foundation; Allison LaForce, Miss District of Columbia 2025; and Michael Reilly, Washington National Opera Society.

Among the invited distinguished diplomatic guests were H.E. Ambassador Gediminas Varvuolis (Lithuania), H.E. Ambassador Ana Irene Delgado (Panama), H.E. Ambassador Gustavo Leite and Mrs. Francesca Leite (Paraguay), Ms. Diana Al-Hadid (Embassy of Jordan), Mr. Adis Ranitya (Embassy of Indonesia), the Embassy of Ireland delegation, Pauline Marquez (Embassy of Malaysia), Mrs. Francesca Nardi (Embassy of Italy), and Mrs. Lilly White of the Associates of American Foreign Service Worldwide.

The gala also welcomed distinguished civic and government leaders, including Dr. Mehmet Oz, Senator Bryce Reeves, Kara Von Dressner Rothchild, Joe Alexander (Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Energy), Cheredith Rhone (Chief of Staff to Congressman Cleo Fields), Patrick Simon and Mrs. Simon (U.S. Department of Defense), Jean Makesh, and Pastor Wes Heine of Journey Church.

One of the most memorable highlights of this year's Global Art Competition was the opportunity to showcase outstanding youth artwork by students ages 12 to 21 at the iconic John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For many young artists and their families, exhibiting their work at one of America's premier cultural institutions marked a once-in-a-lifetime achievement and a source of tremendous pride. The Foundation remains committed to inspiring the next generation of artists by providing meaningful opportunities for recognition, artistic excellence, and international cultural exchange.

The Award of Excellence was presented to the following outstanding young artists in recognition of their exceptional creativity, artistic achievement, and dedication to the visual arts: Chunti Yang, Emily Du, Johnson Chen Hao Gao, Johnny Chen Xin Gao, Angela Heslee, Lanyi Lin, Sophia Chen, Thea Chen, Queena Su, Ryan Zekun Su, and Matthew Chen...

The Global Humanities Foundation expressed its appreciation to the artists, designers, performers, diplomats, sponsors, volunteers, media partners, and supporters whose dedication made the event possible. Special recognition was given to Johnny Morris, Founder of Bass Pro Shops, whose generous sponsorship supported the exhibition of Ray Simon's patriotic masterpieces.

Building on the success of the gala, the Foundation announced plans to expand its international initiatives through the Global Arts Gallery, The Ambassador's Showcase TV, cultural festivals, educational programs, and international partnerships that promote culture, tourism, trade, education, and peace.

About the Global Humanities Foundation

The Global Humanities Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing art, culture, education, leadership, humanitarian service, peace, and international friendship through cultural diplomacy, educational initiatives, exhibitions, media, and global partnerships.

By bringing together artists, educators, diplomats, business leaders, and communities

worldwide, the Foundation creates opportunities for collaboration, mutual understanding, tourism, trade, economic development, and lasting international relationships.

Its signature initiatives include the Global Art & Fashion Gala, Global Arts Gallery, Global Youth Art Competition, Ambassador's Showcase, international cultural festivals, educational exchanges, publications, and media productions.

As the United States commemorates America's 250th Anniversary, the Foundation reaffirms its commitment to using the universal languages of art, fashion, music, and culture to inspire future generations and strengthen relationships among nations.

The success of the Global Art & Fashion Gala—America the Beautiful demonstrated that the arts transcend borders, languages, and politics. Every painting, musical performance, fashion design, and cultural exchange can foster dialogue, encourage understanding, and remind us of our shared humanity.

Through its vision of "Connecting Humanity Through the Arts," the Foundation welcomes countries, artists, designers, musicians, cultural institutions, universities, museums, corporations, and diplomatic missions to participate in future initiatives.

For partnerships, sponsorships, participation, or media inquiries, visit www.GlobalHumanitiesFoundation.org, www.GlobalArtsGallery.org, and www.GlobalDiscover.org.

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