
an evening with the ARTS



Baltimore Museum of Art
Thursday, September 27, 2018





Dear Friends

Welcome to *An Evening with the Arts*, a celebration of 40 years of successful advocacy on behalf of Marylanders with disabilities.

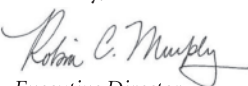
Established by an Act of Congress, Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is part of a national network of advocates charged with protecting and advocating for people with disabilities experiencing abuse and neglect while segregated in institutional facilities. We are proud of DRM's pivotal role in the disability rights' deinstitutionalization and desegregation movement over the last four decades.

I am deeply grateful for the generosity and dedication of this evening's sponsors who have made this event possible and contributed significantly to our continued ability to advocate for Marylanders with disabilities. The DRM board and staff have prepared an exciting program tonight to illustrate DRM's vision of an inclusive society where all people have equal access to the opportunity to pursue their passions. Several artists from two local arts organizations, *Art with a Heart* and *Creative Chance* will display their art work. I encourage you to stop by and talk with the artists about their work.

Maryland Public Television legend, Rhea Feikin will host this evening's awards ceremony where we have the privilege of recognizing five exceptional champions of civil rights for people with disabilities. Please join me in congratulating each of our honorees Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Curt Decker, Regina Lee, Tatyana McFadden and Dominic Radcliff.

I thank each and every one of you for your commitment to advancing the rights of people with disabilities and for your support of DRM. You are making a great difference in all of our lives.

Sincerely,


Executive Director

program

DRM Celebrates 40 Years: An Evening with the Arts

6:00 PM

Artist Displays / Silent Auction, First Level

Gallery Viewing, Second Level

7:00 PM AWARDS PROGRAM

Hosted by Rhea Feikin,
Maryland Public Television

Welcome

Robin C. Murphy, *Executive Director*

2018 HONOREES

Public Policy Award

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings

Lorraine Sheehan Lifetime Achievement Award

Curt Decker

Advocacy Leadership Award

Regina Lee

Influencer Award

Tatyana McFadden

Advocacy Leadership Award

Dominic Radcliff

CLOSING REMARKS & DRAWING

7:45 PM

Dessert and Coffee

8:00 PM

Silent Auction Closes





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PUBLIC POLICY AWARD CONGRESSMAN ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, where he still resides today. He began his career of public service in the Maryland House of Delegates where he served for 14 years and became the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tem. Since 1996, Congressman Cummings has proudly represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Cummings has dedicated his life of service to uplifting and empowering the people he has sworn to represent.

Congressman Cummings often says that our children are the living messages that we send to a future we will never see. In that vein, he is committed to ensuring our next generation has access to quality healthcare and education, clean air and water, and a strong economy defined by fiscal responsibility.

Congressman Cummings currently serves as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As the main investigative committee in the House of Representatives, Oversight and Government Reform has jurisdiction to investigate any federal program and any matter with federal policy implications.

Congressman Cummings serves on numerous boards and commissions including the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors, the Morgan State University Board of Regents, the University of Maryland Law School Board of Advisors, and the SEED School of Maryland Board of Directors. He is an honorary Board member of KIPP Baltimore Schools and the Baltimore School for the Arts. He was also the holder of the Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy Lecture Series at Howard University from 2014 – 2016.

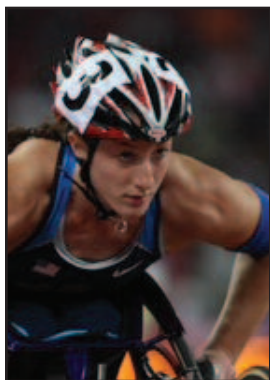


LORRAINE SHEEHAN LIFE- TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CURT DECKER

As a graduate of Hamilton College and Cornell Law School, **Curt Decker** was assigned to the Baltimore City Legal Aid Bureau as a VISTA volunteer. He was asked to remain as staff attorney and later as a Senior Attorney in the Class Action unit. His work on behalf of abused children led to the position of Executive Director at the HELP Resource Project, a federally funded program serving abused and neglected children. He was then asked to join the newly established Protection and Advocacy program (P&A) for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland (MAUDD, now Disability Rights Maryland). During his three-year tenure, he began the effort to downsize and ultimately close Rosewood, Hagerstown and Henryton state hospitals. The DRM staff grew to 23 under his leadership, and he helped create the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems (NAPAS, now NDRN) in collaboration with other P&A Executive Directors around the country.

Curt was appointed as Executive Director of National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) in 1986. During his 32 year tenure at NDRN, Curt's focus has always been on strengthening and expanding the P&A network. When he began representing the P&A/CAP network, it was funded at \$6 million. Today, the network receives an astounding \$175 million dollars in federal support. Under Curt's guidance, the P&A/CAP network has moved from a singular focus on abuse and neglect in institutions to a larger mission as the principal enforcer of special education, vocational rehabilitation, integrated community living, transportation, and other disability civil rights issues. Over his long career, Curt has participated in every major disability issue before the U.S. Congress, including the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act and inclusion of disability as a protected class in the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Beyond his work in the disability rights movement, Curt has served on several boards such as Free State Justice, Opera Vivente and most recently on the Board of Trustees for Friends of Research, Inc. Curt annually performs in the Baltimore School for the Arts production of the Nutcracker as "Herr Drosselmeyer".



INFLUENCER AWARD TATYANA MCFADDEN

Born with a hole in her spine caused by spina bifida, **Tatyana McFadden** spent the first six years of her life in a Russian orphanage with virtually nothing, not even a wheelchair. In 1994, Deborah McFadden, then Commissioner of Disabilities for the U.S. Department of Health, met Tatyana and felt a connection, an inexplicable feeling that they were meant to be together, and adopted Tatyana.

At 15, Tatyana made her Paralympic debut in Athens in 2004. She was the youngest member of Team USA and returned from Greece with her first two medals. She now owns 17 Paralympic Medals and has won 22 major world marathons, including four consecutive grand slams and first place in Boston, Chicago, New York City, and London in the same year.

In high school Tatyana was initially not allowed to join the track team, and then, after becoming a member, she was made to race alone during meets. In 2005 Tatyana and Deborah McFadden, with Disability Rights Maryland (then Maryland Disability Law Center) filed suit against the Howard County Public School System and won the right for her to race with her fellow classmates.

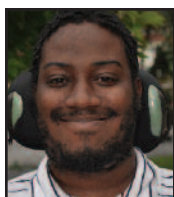
McFadden's lawsuit inspired the eventual passage of the Maryland Fitness and Athletics Equity for Students with Disabilities Act, requiring schools to give students with disabilities opportunities to compete in interscholastic athletics, the first of its kind in the U.S. and a model for other states. DRM was instrumental in drafting that legislation. This past year over 3,000 Maryland students participated in interscholastic activities.

Tatyana continues to advance the rights of people with disabilities in her civic life while earning her graduate degree in Education at the University of Illinois.

ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP AWARD

REGINA LEE AND DOMINIC RADCLIFF

Regina Lee and Dominic Radcliff are receiving DRM's Advocacy Leadership award as representatives of ten plaintiffs in *Ripley et. Al. v. Housing Authority of Prince George's County et.al.* brought by Disability Rights Maryland (DRM). The lawsuit alleges widespread practices of discrimination against persons with disabilities including a refusal to make modifications and accommodations in housing, failure to provide program accessibility, and failure to provide effective communications. Regina and Dominic have been instrumental in guiding their attorneys and acting as Plaintiff representatives during hours of negotiations.



Dominic Radcliff, is a resident of Prince George's County, Maryland. Dominic was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy at the age of 21. He decided to make the best of his condition in order to become the best man and father to his children. He was excited when offered the opportunity to begin working with David Prater, Lauren Young, and the Disability Rights Maryland family and their great initiatives for people with disabilities in Maryland. In addition to being an advocate for the civil rights of persons with disabilities, he volunteers with his son's football team.

His lawsuit includes challenges to the refusal to allow him to live with support in accessible housing. Since filing his case with others, he has obtained a larger apartment that accommodates his needs for accessibility and independence. He now lives in better conditions with his brother and son.



Regina Lee has been an advocate for persons with disabilities for more than 38 years. She has spoken out on accessible transportation and housing issues, appearing on numerous radio broadcasts and television appearances. She has held numerous civic offices, including as a member of the City of New Carrollton Board of Elections, City of New Carrollton ADA Compliance Committee Official, Prince George's County Commission for Individuals with Disabilities, Board of Directors of Independence Now, Inc. (INI), Chair, INI Transportation Action Group; and Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

In 1980, Ms. Lee was nominated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee of the Year. She has been a participant in the 1980 Miss D.C. Wheelchair Pageant (1st Runner-Up) and 1992 Ms. Wheelchair Maryland Pageant (1st Runner-Up and Special Achievement Award).



RHEA FEIKIN, HOST MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION

Rhea Feikin is often dubbed the “First Lady” of Maryland Public Television owing to her 30-year tenure and her on-air presence in a variety of local productions. Ms. Feikin is a Baltimore native who earned her bachelor’s degree in speech pathology from the University of Maryland where she was active in university theater. Upon graduation, she was the recipient of the Hale Award for Outstanding Drama Student.

Ms. Feikin began her career at WBAL-TV. After leaving WBAL she began her freelance career. Her first job at Maryland Public Television (MPT) was on Consumer Survival Kit. She has served as host for other MPT productions including ArtWorks This Week and MPT On Location. She currently hosts the station’s on-air membership drives, anchors MPT’s weekly Artworks series, serves as host of Chesapeake Collectibles, and is host of Impressionswith Rhea Feikin.

Ms. Feikin presently serves as honorary chair of MPT’s major fundraising campaign. She has served on the boards of the Baltimore School for the Arts, the Gordon Center for Performing Arts, the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, and the Baltimore County Adult Education Committee. She was a founder of Baltimore’s Center Stage in 1963.

Ms. Feikin was the recipient of the Women in Film and Video’s Charm City Award; was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Gold Circle in recognition of her contributions to the broadcast community; and was named to Maryland’s Top 100 Women by The Daily Record newspaper. Hers was the first star unveiled when MPT created its Walk of Fame in 2010.



CREATIVE CHANCE is an original inspiration, mission and vision of Founder/Director Amanda Taylor. Ms. Taylor has been working with individuals with disabilities since 1999 in various roles, specializing in autism therapy, creative movement and expressive arts therapy techniques. Her background includes many years of performance, but her most recent role was as a program director in a center for independent living where she designed and pioneered multiple programs and curriculum in the Baltimore area. Amanda graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Goucher College where she studied dance therapy and volunteered with the Goucher Disability Initiative. Amanda's great passion in this world is working with people with disabilities within the arts, and her goal is

to reach as many communities as possible to encourage increased social justice. She strives to promote educational, recreational and even employment opportunities for people of all abilities in and around Baltimore. Creative Chance is designed to break down social barriers between those with and without disabilities, while creating opportunities in the arts for all!

Amanda's experience includes working as an Independent Living Specialist and Travel Training Program Director for The IMAGE Center for People with Disabilities; four years as an autism therapist specializing in Applied Behavior Analysis through Autism Outreach, Inc.; assisting in a multiple intensive needs curriculum in the Anne Arundel County Public School system; and assisting with the Magical Experiences Arts Company at the Maryland School for the Blind.



ART WITH A HEART, INC. is a non-profit organization that provides engaging, educational and interactive visual arts classes to underserved Baltimore area children, youth and adults in schools, group homes, shelters, community centers, recreation centers, foster care agencies, senior facilities, and hospitals. Founded in 2000, Art with a Heart's mission is to enhance the lives of people in need through visual art.

In addition to its 11,500 annual core programs, Art with a Heart offers the following complementary initiatives:

- Arts Integration, which provides engaging visual art programs to supplement academic curricula in elementary/middle schools
- HeARTworks, a Workforce Development Program, which uses art as a vehicle to teach job skills (75% of HeARTworks students got jobs upon program completion)
- HeARTwares, Art with a Heart's social enterprise/retail store
- Art to Market, which teaches participants to create marketable art which is then displayed and sold to the public
- Apprenticeships, which encourage qualified participants to earn money while assisting in HeARTwares and targeted sites
- Public Art Projects, often in the form of mosaic murals made by community volunteers
- Community Service and service learning opportunities
- The Art of Leadership, a thirteen-month teen leadership program. The program brings together youth of diverse backgrounds to develop leadership skills and engage in dialogues across cultural barriers.

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We are excited to join DRM in celebrating 40 years of advocacy on behalf of Maryland's disability community.

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The National Disability Rights Network
congratulates **Disability Rights Maryland** on 40
years of exceptional advocacy!

We join you in honoring our Executive
Director, **Curt Decker**, for his many
years of dedicated service to the
P&A Network.



Seawall is so proud of our
partners at Disability Rights
Maryland for the important
work you have been doing for
the past four decades.

*Here's to 40 more
groundbreaking years.*

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Thank you to DRM for
40 years of serving
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*We're all better because
of your work.*

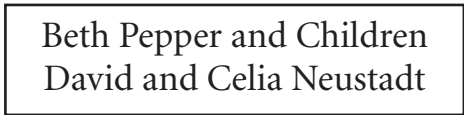




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