FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies
2015 Annual Events in Washington, D.C.

Honoring Yo-Yo Ma
With the 2015 Annenberg Award

Celebrating the 2015 Artists Donations by
Don Gummer, Jeff Koons, Sylvia Plimack Mangold and Cindy Sherman

Reception and Dinner
U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Reception Rooms
By Invitation Only
April 20, 2015

Panel Discussion at the National Gallery of Art
The Role of Art in Diplomacy: Cultural Citizens
Open to the Public
April 20, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

Washington, D.C. – March 31, 2015 - The Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE) is pleased to announce that its 2015 Annual Events will take place on Monday, April 20 in Washington, D.C. The Events will include a reception and dinner hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry and Mrs. Heinz Kerry at the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Reception Rooms, where FAPE will present Yo-Yo Ma with the 2015 Leonore and Walter Annenberg Award for Diplomacy through the Arts in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to our country’s rich artistic tradition. FAPE Chairman Jo Carole Lauder will present the award.

The 2015 artist donations by Don Gummer, Jeff Koons, Sylvia Plimack Mangold and Cindy Sherman will be presented to Secretary Kerry at the dinner. Darren Walker, FAPE Vice President and President of the Ford Foundation, will present Bank of America with FAPE’s inaugural Partner in the Arts Award. A panel discussion, entitled The Role of Art in Diplomacy: Cultural Citizens, will take place on the same day at the National Gallery of Art.

2015 Annenberg Award honoring Yo-Yo Ma
“Yo-Yo Ma epitomizes the meaning of the Annenberg Award,” said Jo Carole Lauder, FAPE Chairman. “He recognizes the importance of fostering cultural understanding through his musical ensembles and beyond his practice as a gifted cellist in communities around the world.”
Ma maintains a balance between his engagements as a soloist with orchestras, and his recital and chamber music activities. One of his goals is the exploration of music as a means of communication, and as a vehicle for the migration of ideas across a range of cultures throughout the world.

Expanding upon this interest, in 1998, Ma established Silkroad, a nonprofit organization that seeks to create meaningful change at the intersections of the arts, education and business. His discography of over 90 albums has earned 18 Grammy Awards. He has also been awarded the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the National Medal of Arts (2001), and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2010). In 2011, Ma was recognized as a Kennedy Center Honoree, and is currently serving as a UN Messenger of Peace and as a member of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. He has performed for eight American presidents, most recently at the invitation of President Obama on the occasion of the 56th Inaugural Ceremony.

"I am honored to receive the 2015 Annenberg Award from the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies. The Foundation has a unique mission of cultural diplomacy in the arts, and through its generosity, embassy visitors throughout the world are able to experience the art of some of our preeminent American artists. It is a privilege to join the distinguished company of Annenberg honorees and to share with them the goal of using culture as a universal language to inspire global understanding," said Yo-Yo Ma.

The Annenberg Award was established in 2008 to honor distinguished Americans who have demonstrated a commitment to the arts, and who exhibit long-term excellence and innovation in the exchange of creativity and ideas that represent the rich and diverse culture of the United States. Past honorees include: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer (2009); New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (2010); arts patron Agnes Gund (2011); architect I. M. Pei (2012); philanthropist, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of the Carlyle Group, David Rubenstein (2013); and founder of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Alice Walton (2014).

The official Award was designed and contributed by preeminent American artist, Ellsworth Kelly. Carlson Arts LLC donated the fabrication costs. Takaaki Matsumoto donated the design of the Award’s base.

FAPE Print and Photography Collections
This year’s donations by American artists Jeff Koons, Sylvia Plimack Mangold and Cindy Sherman will be unveiled at a reception and dinner hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry and Mrs. Heinz Kerry at the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Reception Rooms on Monday, April 20.

Jeff Koons and Sylvia Plimack Mangold will be the 23rd and 24th artists to donate an original print to the Original Print Collection, FAPE’s longest-running program. Cindy Sherman is the sixth artist to donate an edition to FAPE’s newest initiative launched in 2013, a collection of American photography.

FAPE’s Site-Specific Installation at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow
In 2014, FAPE commissioned Don Gummer to create a sculpture for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, as part of its Site-Specific Collection. The sculpture is the 18th work commissioned by the organization. The design will be unveiled to Secretary Kerry during the dinner, and the installation is planned for 2016.

Partner in the Arts Award
Bank of America will receive FAPE’s inaugural Partner in the Arts Award for their dedication to FAPE and to the arts globally. Darren Walker, FAPE Vice President and President of the Ford Foundation, will make the official presentation to Anne Finucane, Global Strategy and Marketing Officer, on behalf of Bank of America at FAPE’s 2015 Annual Events.

Panel Discussion Presented by the National Gallery of Art in Coordination with FAPE
In the spirit of the Annenberg Award’s mission, the National Gallery of Art will host a panel discussion in collaboration with FAPE on The Role of Art in Diplomacy: Cultural Citizens on Monday, April 20, at 1:00 p.m. The discussion will focus on culture as a collective tool for creating meaning. Moderated by Molly Donovan, Associate Curator of Modern Art, National Gallery of Art, panelists will include Theaster Gates, artist; Yo-Yo Ma, cellist; and Darren Walker, FAPE Vice President and President, Ford Foundation.

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., April 20, 2015, 1:00 p.m.
East Building Atrium -- The panel is free and open to the public.
About FAPE
FAPE is the leading public-private partnership dedicated to providing permanent works of American art for U.S. embassies worldwide through site-specific commissions, original print and photography collections, preservation projects and other arts and education initiatives. FAPE contributes to the U.S. Department of State’s mission of cultural diplomacy by partnering with American artists whose gifts encourage cross-cultural understanding within the diplomatic community and the international public. All artworks commissioned or placed by FAPE are gifts, representing the generosity and patriotism of some of the country’s greatest artists and donors. As of 2015, FAPE’s contributions include permanent works by more than 200 preeminent American artists placed in more than 140 countries.

FAPE was founded in 1986 by Leonore Annenberg, Wendy W. Luers, Lee Kimche McGrath and Carol Price. Its current leadership includes Chairman Jo Carole Lauder, President Eden Rafshoon, Vice President Darren Walker, and Director Jennifer A. Duncan. A volunteer advisory committee chaired by Robert Storr, Dean of the Yale School of Art, selects and commissions all FAPE artists. FAPE underwrites the fabrication and installation, and is exclusively funded through individual, foundation and corporate donations. Additional information about FAPE can be found at www.fapeglobal.org.

Follow FAPE’s announcements, events and artists on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #FAPEnполнвлгo.

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