

VIDEO REQUEST PROPOSAL

TO: Stephanie Streett
Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling

FROM:

REQUEST: Welcoming remarks by Mrs. Clinton for the 1999 Coming Up Taller Awards presented by the Presidents' Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

PURPOSE: Mrs. Clinton presented the Coming Up Taller Awards last year. She is Honorary Chair of the President's Committee and charged the Committee to find ways in its work to enhance access to the arts and humanities for "at-risk" children. The Awards do just that. The video will continue to affiliate the White House, and specifically Mrs. Clinton, with the annual awards program.

DATE AND TIME: The video is needed by Friday, October 22, 1999. The Coming Up Taller Awards will be presented on Tuesday, October 26, 1999.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT: Harriet Fulbright, Executive Director, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 526, Washington, DC 20010. 202-682-5409.

BACKGROUND: The viewing audience will be approximately 200 people. The video will be shown at the Awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

DURATION: Three minutes

REMARKS: Attached

STAFF CONTACT: Judith Weitz, PCAH, 202-6825409; Jane Engelstad, White House Millennium Council, 202-395-7272.

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL: Ellen Lovell, Advisor to the First Lady on The Millennium

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR THE 1999
COMING UP TALLER AWARDS
Washington, DC
October 26, 1999**

I am delighted to welcome you to the 1999 Coming Up Taller Awards. I only wish I could be there in person to congratulate all the winners and to thank each of you for supporting the arts and humanities.

We all know that arts and the humanities are not a luxury. Anyone who has seen a child finish a piano piece or create a poem knows how these experiences can literally transform their lives. And as the award recipients have demonstrated, they can help young people think, learn, and grow. They can give kids safe places to go, away from bad influences and out of harm's way when not in school or at home. Safe places where they can learn about their cultural heritage, get job training in the visual arts or learn a handicraft.

Behind each award are creative, competent, and contributing young people who have overcome hardships to lift up their lives and build their futures. And behind every award is a story about caring adults – artists, teachers, and writers who are dedicated to inspiring, teaching and reassuring our children.

One such story took place in a Colorado community, where two mothers were alarmed by a dramatic increase in juvenile crime, substance abuse and vandalism. Ripping pages out of the phonebook, they organized volunteers to interview almost 1500 families, community leaders, and “anyone who would answer their phone.” They discovered children had “nowhere to be” in the after-school, holiday, or summer hours. “Our kids were bored rather than challenged, idle rather than active, and at great risk....” They said. So the community created Arts in Action, a theater, ballet, and visual arts program that works with professional artists in the community.

We need to replicate stories like these all over the country. And that is what you are helping to do. I want to congratulate the 1999 Coming Up Taller winners. You are an inspiration to us all.

To Eric Massay
for
Laura Schiller

FOR LAURA SCHILLER

Draft Remarks for Mrs. Clinton for 1999 Coming Up Taller Awards
October 26, 1999
Old Executive Office Building

682-5068
FAX

I am delighted to welcome you to the presentation of the 1999 Coming Up Taller Awards. I certainly wish I could share this important occasion with you in person.

The arts and the humanities are not a luxury. They can literally transform children's lives. They help young people think, learn, and grow.

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and reward outstanding after-school arts and humanities programs. They give children safe places to go when they are not at school or at home, and the positive alternatives they need to stay out of harm's way.

682-5068
Weitz

Today we celebrate:

- a youth employment and training program in the visual arts;
- a program of glass blowing instruction combined with academics and mentoring;
- one that uses the power of children's literature to make the world of books come alive to new readers and their young children;
- a program that helps young people make constructive choices in their lives by immersing them in their rich Cambodian cultural heritage;
- a community service program where the arts, health, education and environmental issues are interconnected at a Latino arts and cultural center; and
- other exemplary arts and humanities programs.

Behind every one of these awards are creative, competent, and contributing young people who have overcome hardships to lift up their lives and build their futures. Behind every award are caring adults - artists, scholars, and writers - who are dedicated to inspiring, teaching and reassuring young people.

All across this country, others are turning to the arts to build communities for our children. Recently, I heard about two "intrepid mothers" who turned to the arts to address a dramatic increase in juvenile crime, substance abuse and vandalism in their Colorado community. Ripping pages out of the phonebook, they organized volunteers to interview some 1500 families, community leaders, and "anyone who would answer their phone." They discovered children had "nowhere to be" in the after-school, holiday, or summer hours. "Our kids were bored rather than challenged, idle rather than active, and at great risk...." So the community created Arts in Action, a theater, ballet, and visual arts program that works with professional artists in the community.

But today, I want to especially congratulate the 1999 Coming Up Taller winners. You are an inspiration to us all. And I hope that this award will help your program and will inspire others to follow your lead. We need to make the arts and the humanities available to every child and to involve the whole cultural community in educating, safeguarding, and inspiring our children.