# a note from

## ADAIR MARGO

**Chairman**
President's Committee on
the Arts and the Humanities

This is the 10th anniversary of the Coming Up Taller Awards, given annually to exemplary arts and humanities programs for children outside the regular school day. When we gather for these awards, we are reminded of why they are so appropriately named. As we watch the children sing, play instruments, and dance, we witness for ourselves how, when they take their final bow, they are Coming Up Taller.

It's encouraging to know that these programs are growing across the United States and in other countries, too. Children in the United States, Mexico, and China are all learning songs, dances, and how to play a guitar —or *erhu*. They learn their own traditions and those of other cultures, too. Our young performers remind us that it doesn't matter if they become professional artists or choose another road. Arts education is about creating whole human beings!

*Bienvenidos* to our friends from Mexico who are joining us at the White House for the fifth year. Also, 欢迎 to our friends from the People's Republic of China whom we met in their own country last June. Performances at the Shanghai Children's Palace will remain one of our lasting memories.

We are grateful to our partner cultural agencies—the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities—who have made it a priority to reach out to other parts of the world with their outstanding programs. We also thank all of our contributors, especially GMAC, Time Warner, and the members of the President's Committee, for giving of themselves and their resources to make this program possible.

Adair Margo