

# GUILD HALL

## MEDIA ALERT

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**Guild Hall's 2022 Academy of the Arts Dinner Sets Fundraising Record**  
**Honorees: Marty and Michele Cohen**  
**HELD MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022, at CIPRIANI 42<sup>nd</sup> STREET, NYC**



**March 17, 2022—East Hampton, NY** — Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton) recently held its annual Academy of the Arts Dinner on Monday, March 14 at Cipriani 42nd Street, honoring Board Chairman **Marty Cohen and Michele Cohen** in recognition of their long-standing commitment and generosity to Guild Hall. The event also recognized the newest inductees to the Academy, including **Barry Bergdoll, Renee Cox, Cornelius Eady, Bran Ferren, RoseLee Goldberg, Rashid Johnson, Erik Larson, Robert Longo, Julianne Moore, Questlove, Ugo Rondinone, Frank Wimberley, and Lucy Winton**. The event exceeded fundraising goals, setting a new record in recent history for the Academy Dinner.

As guests settled into dinner, they were treated to a surprise performance by Beat Boxer Chris Celiz and B-Boy Anthony Vito Rodriguez of The Missing Element, presented in collaboration with Works & Process at the Guggenheim. This served as a preview to a performance the company will present as part of Guild Hall's summer program. Executive Director Andrea Grover welcomed guests and then passed the mic to host, Trustee and Academy President, Eric Fischl. During his speech, Eric notably took a moment to acknowledge the crisis in Ukraine, as well as the recent passing of Academy Member and past honoree, Tony Walton.

After the main course, the program continued with Bran Ferren followed by Alice Aycock speaking about the honorees, and the reveal of a sculpture by Aycock, *Little Twister*, gifted to Marty and Michele Cohen, who took the stage to speak. The guests were then treated to another performance by musicians of the New York Philharmonic, including Rebecca Young on Viola, Yulia Ziskel on Violin, and Patrick Jee on Cello. Rebecca Young delighted the audience with a surprise encore featuring an original Guild Hall tribute sing-along song, which served as the perfect finale.

“From beat-boxing to classical music to a sing-along, the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Dinner perfectly summarized Guild Hall’s disposition as an ‘art omnivore’ that presents over 20 creative disciplines each year. Our ability to achieve such versatility and virtuosity can be credited to the talent of our Academy members, and the vision of our honorees, Marty and Michele Cohen,” said Guild Hall Executive Director, Andrea Grover.

Other notable guests included inductees Barry Bergdoll, Renee Cox, Cornelius Eady, RoseLee Goldberg, Erik Larson, Frank Wimberley, and Lucy Winton, as well as April Gornik, Blythe Danner, Peter Marino, Sam Isaly, Harris Yulin, Ronald Guttman, Tovah Feldshuh, Ralph Gibson and Mary Jane Marcasiano, Arcmanoro Niles, Alexis Rockman, Toni Ross, Katarina Feder, Angela Westwater, Shelly and Vincent Fremont, Jeremy Dennis, Michael Halsband, Sara VanDerBeek, Eric Shiner, Amy Schictel, Jose Sebastian, and Catherine Galasso. Several members of Guild Hall’s Board of Trustees were also in attendance, including Albert C. Bellas, Mary Jane Brock, Michael Cinque, Lucy Cookson, David DeLeeuw, Christina Isaly Liceaga, Kim Heirston, Phyllis Hollis, Bruce C. Horten, Susan Jacobson, Patti Kenner, Jeff Loewy, Linda Macklowe, Galia Meiri-Stawski, Stephen Meringoff, Cheryl Minikes, Alice Netter, Tom Roush, Sheri Sandler, Lisa Schultz, John Shea, Bruce Wolosoff, and Ken Wyse.

Also in attendance was the creative team behind Guild Hall’s [Capital Improvements Project](#), Peter Pennoyer, Ed Hollander, and Bran Ferren, as well as Owner’s Reps Jon Maass and Pamela Torres. Details of the project, set to begin this spring with an estimated completion of late spring 2023, were shared during Andrea Grover’s welcome speech.

The overall atmosphere was blissful and full of optimism and excitement for the future of Guild Hall. With COVID-19 restrictions loosening, the timing could not have been better for this joyous event honoring two incredible people, and 13 new Academy inductees.

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Pictured: Guests seated at the 2022 Academy of the Arts Dinner. Photo: Jessica Dalene Photography

### **About Marty Cohen**

Guild Hall Chair of the Board of Trustees since 2013, Marty Cohen is co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Cohen & Steers, Inc., a global investment management firm. Dedicated to public service, he holds leadership positions at the Foundation for City College, the Central Park Conservancy, and Hebrew Union College. Marty is an avid cyclist and classical guitarist, and recently produced the book *Sacred Land* with his friend, noted photographer Ralph Gibson. Marty’s leadership of Guild Hall is inspired by his love of the arts, music, education, and the East End community.

### **About Michele Cohen**

Michele Cohen currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City. She is a member of the University of Vermont Foundation Board and serves on the Board of Trustees of Alfred University. She supports the arts programs at both universities. She is also a Trustee of the Hebrew Home in Riverdale. Besides her interest in art, education, her family of four children and four adorable grandchildren, Michele is an avid knitter and needlepointer.

### **About Guild Hall Academy of the Arts**

In 1985, in recognition of the abundance of visual, literary, and performing artists in the Hamptons, Guild Hall’s Board of Trustees initiated an awards program and honored local luminaries Kurt Vonnegut, Willem de Kooning, and Alan Alda. The following year, the Guild Hall Academy of the Arts was founded by Roy Lichtenstein, Frank Perry, Joseph F. Cullman, III, Peter Jennings, Sydney Gruson, Wilfred Sheed, Elaine Steinbeck, Henry Geldzahler, and Sherrye P. Henry as an association of talented artists and arts professionals who have an affiliation with Guild Hall. The mission

of the Academy of the Arts is to foster and inspire the artistic spirit of the East End and recognize the diversity and ingenuity of human expression. The Academy is one of the four pillars of Guild Hall of East Hampton in concert with the John Drew Theater, Guild Hall Museum, and Education Department. It is a life-term honor conferred on no more than 250 living members with an association to eastern Long Island. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

#### **About Guild Hall**

Guild Hall, one of the first multidisciplinary centers in the country to combine a museum, theater, and education space under one roof, was established in 1931 as a gathering place for community where an appreciation for the arts would serve to encourage greater civic participation. For nine decades, Guild Hall has embraced this open-minded vision and provided a welcoming environment for the public to engage with art exhibitions, performances, and educational offerings. Art and artists have long been the engine of Guild Hall's activities and the institution continues to find innovative ways to support creativity in everyone. For more information about this and other programs, visit [guildhall.org](http://guildhall.org).

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