

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

Washington, D. C. February 5, 1969. W. Howard Adams, former Chairman of the Missouri Council of the Arts and an early leader in the development of state arts councils in America, has been named to a new administrative post with a nationwide emphasis at the National Gallery of Art.

He will supervise the Gallery's expanding Extension and Publication services. The National Gallery provides through these educational programs reproductions, exhibitions, films, and publications to communities in all 50 states. Plans are being made to house the services in expanded facilities made possible by the Gallery's new building for which I. M. Pei and Partners' architectural services have been retained.

After graduation from the University of Missouri and the law school of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, Mr. Adams entered the business community of Kansas City and became active in educational, philanthropic, and cultural organizations. He serves on the boards of the Harry S Truman Library and Institute in Independence and the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, and has

been active in building the contemporary collection of the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery and Atkins Museum of Fine Arts, in Kansas City. He is also a member of the advisory board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in Washington, D. C.

In 1963 Mr. Adams was named by Governor John Dalton of Missouri to be chairman of the Governor's Committee on the Arts which led to the creation of the Missouri Council. The Council received one of the largest appropriations for a state-wide program from a state legislature. In the first year, its programs reached more than a hundred communities.

In 1965, after serving as a consultant to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Mr. Adams helped organize the Associated Councils of the Arts in New York City and for the past two years was its associate director. Drawing upon his legal and cultural background, he drafted model legislation which has been widely used in the formation of state councils. He also directed seminars in arts administration at New York University and the University of Buffalo, founded the quarterly magazine Cultural Affairs and wrote the book The Politics of Art. In 1967, realizing the need for broad cooperation between the arts councils of the United States and Canada, he guided the formation of the North American Assembly of state arts agencies, an organization which he serves as secretary.

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