

James McNeill Whistler

DISTINGUISHED ART
AWARD

2017

HONORING
James
Costos





JAMES COSTOS
Ambassador to the Kingdom of
Spain and Principality of Andorra
(August 13, 2013 – January 20, 2017)

James Costos, U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra, was born in 1963 and was raised and educated in Lowell, Massachusetts. He is a second-generation Greek-American, whose father served as a U.S. Marine and was stationed at Camp David during the Truman administration. He is the first in his family to graduate college. He earned a degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 1985.

Ambassador Costos has dedicated himself to building the important relationship between the United States, Spain, and Andorra since being sworn in on August 22, 2013 and continues to serve the relationship as a private citizen.

The Ambassador received many awards during his tenure, including the Sorolla Medal for excellence and contribution to Hispanic arts and culture, the Medalla de Oro de Canarias, and the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award from Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. He was also named Honorary Chairman of the Spanish Film Commission.

High-profile visits to Spain by President Obama, The First Lady, and other top

ranking officials have helped advance the U.S.- Spain relationship. Additionally, King Felipe, Queen Letizia of Spain, and Prime Minister Rajoy have visited the White House since Ambassador Costos arrived in Spain. These visits cemented the extraordinarily productive partnership and testify to the significance of the great relationship between the two countries.

Prior to his life as ambassador, Costos was a corporate leader and executive in the international retail and entertainment industries, most notably at HBO and Tod's. His responsibilities included global positioning, external relations, marketing and communications. He is a passionate supporter of humanitarian and art organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign and the Santa Monica Museum of Art. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of the United States.

When in the United States Costos splits his time between Los Angeles and New York with his partner of 16 years, award-winning interior designer to the White House, Michael S. Smith and their four dogs Sport, Lily, Greco, and Whistler.

Ambassador Costos is a strong advocate for cultural institutions and diplomacy, as reflected in his one-of-a-kind "Art in Embassies" collection in the Ambassador's residence in Spain, lauded all over the world. The Whistler House Museum of Art is proud to present the 2017 James McNeill Whistler Distinguished Art Award to Ambassador Costos for his efforts to promote the humanities, and specifically for his participation in the Art in Embassies Program and the promotion of the Whistler House Museum of Art.

The Board of Trustees
of the Lowell Art Association, Inc.
Whistler House Museum Of Art

Cordially invites you to attend the

**James
McNeill
Whistler**
DISTINGUISHED ART
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Gala celebration honoring

US Ambassador to Spain and Andorra

James Costos

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Presenting the Exhibition — *Lowell: A Homecoming*

4:00 PM Exhibition Opens
5:00 PM Cocktail Reception
6:00 PM Dinner & Program
8:00 PM Dancing

Featuring Sabrina Avilés and Flamenco Dance Project

UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
50 Warren Street, Lowell, MA

Dress: Business Formal / Cocktail Attire
Guest Check-In At Door

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Proceeds from this event to benefit the YOUTH SUMMER ART PROGRAM providing scholarships for professional art classes to students from low-income families and RESTORATION projects of the historic Whistler House Museum of Art.