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Media Contact: Rupert Ayton, 360-314-2421,  
[rupert@nativeartsandcultures.org](mailto:rupert@nativeartsandcultures.org)



## DUDLEY COCKE AND CHERYL ANDREWS---MALTAIS APPOINTED TO NATIVE ARTS AND CULTURES FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 8, 2013** – The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, a national charity dedicated to promoting the revitalization, appreciation and perpetuation of Native arts and cultures, appointed Dudley Cocke and Cheryl Andrews---Maltais (Wampanoag of Gay Head Aquinnah) to its board of directors.

Cocke is a writer, stage director and teacher, who is nationally respected as an arts advocate for community cultural development and as a public intellectual. He is the artistic director of Roadside Theater in Whitesburg, KY, the theater wing of the Appalachian multimedia arts and humanities center Appalshop founded in 1969 as part of the federal War on Poverty. Cocke is a founding member of Alternate ROOTS and the Global Network for Cultural Rights. His experience includes creative collaborations using theater to bring Native and rural communities together. He presently serves on the national advisory boards of the Rural Policy Research Institute and Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life. Under his direction, Roadside Theater has toured its original plays to 43 states, produced several plays for public television and performed its innovative work in cities from London to Los Angeles. Widely published, he is the recipient of the 2002 Heinz Award for Arts and Humanities.

Andrews---Maltais is the chairwoman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) in Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Before being elected to lead her nation, Andrews---Maltais was the tribe's historic preservation officer, responsible for protecting and advocating for Wampanoag cultural past. She has served on her tribe's gaming commission and tribal committees related to budget and finance, economic development, land use and shellfish management. She is part of the leadership of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and has led committees dedicated to perpetuating cultural and language resources for member tribes. Alongside her community, Andrews---Maltais supported the tribe's long fight to gain federal recognition. Located near the Plymouth colony, the Aquinnah Wampanoag were among the first indigenous tribes impacted by colonization of the Americas and their sovereign status was federally recognized in 1987.

"We appreciate the leadership, skills and values Dudley Cocke and Cheryl Andrews---Maltais have cultivated in their work supporting arts and cultures," said foundation CEO/President T. Lulani Arquette. "We are delighted to welcome them and their innovative ideas to our board of directors. Our board is a collegial collective of people united in a cause, and we're so excited for this opportunity to work alongside Dudley and Cheryl."

Launched in 2009, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation is a national 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to supporting the arts and cultures of Alaska Native, American Indian and Native Hawaiian peoples. In its first three years, the foundation has awarded \$1,341,000 in grants to 72 Native artists and organizations in 25 states. To learn more about the foundation and to support its mission, visit [www.nativeartsandcultures.org](http://www.nativeartsandcultures.org).

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**Editor's Note:** For high-resolution images of these new board members, please contact **Rupert Ayton** at [Rupert@nativeartsandcultures.org](mailto:Rupert@nativeartsandcultures.org) or 360-314-2421.