

## **John Paul Batiste** **Arts Advocacy Consultant**

John Paul Batiste is the founder and CEO of AVOI, a full service consulting firm specializing in creative leadership, civic arts advocacy and diversity consulting. Prior to founding AVOI, Batiste served as the Executive Director for the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) for fourteen years. He was Director of Programs for TCA for the five year period before appointment as Executive Director. Batiste was appointed and serves as President of the Young Art Institute IN Education in Dallas, Texas in October 2006. He is a board member of the Texas Music Project an Emeritus Member of the Mid America Arts Alliance Board, Advisory member of the African American Repertory Theatre and a Member of the St Anthony's Parrish Council.

Prior to joining the TCA staff in 1983 Batiste served as Assistant Director for the Dallas City Arts Program, a municipal art agency.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Batiste served as a developer and community relations specialist for a bilingual children's television program at KUHT-TV in Houston, and Assistant Director of the Dallas Head Start Program. He is a specialist in organizational development and assessment. Mr. Batiste is a poet and has toured and presented nationally as a performer, singer, and speaker. His formal education is in history, government, and literature.



Mr. Batiste has served as a board member for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Americans for the Arts, The Association Of American Cultures and the Estevanico Society, and as an Advisory Board Member of the University of Texas Performing Arts Center Black Arts Committee. He has served as an Advisory Board member of the Community Development Corporation Arts Resource Initiative, which serves as a national human resource development project. He also served as an Advisory Committee member for the California Lawyers for the Arts.

Batiste has served as a panelist on many occasions with the National Endowment for the Arts States Program, Expansion Arts, Theatre, Creation & Preservation, and Challenge America-Fast Tract Grants Programs and as an evaluation consultant for a variety of NEA, state and local projects. Batiste is a member of the distinguished Texas Philosophical Society and the visionary Association of American Cultures.

Batiste was awarded the "Rising Star Award" from the Texas Art Education Association for the support and advancement of the visual arts in Texas. He was the 2002 recipient of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies most prestigious award, the "Gary Young Award", for outstanding leadership and innovation in the State Arts Agency field. He is also the first state arts agency director to be granted emeritus status to the Mid-America Arts Alliance board of directors.