



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

Press contact:

Laura T. Gorham, Director

Tel: 441-295-9428

E-mail: director@bng.bm

**David L. White steps down as BNG Chairman;
succeeded by Gary Phillips**

Hamilton, Bermuda, February 8, 2008 — The Bermuda National Gallery has announced that David L. White has stepped down as Chairman of the Board of Trustees after 11 years in the post. Gary L. Phillips, who has been Deputy Chairman since 2002, was unanimously elected as the new chairman at a meeting of the Trustees earlier this week.

Mr. White said: “I have greatly enjoyed my 11 years as Chairman of the Bermuda National Gallery but I feel the time is right to hand over to a younger person. Gary Phillips has been an effective Deputy Chairman and I have no doubt that he will make a good Chairman who can take the Gallery to another level.

“During my time as Chairman the Gallery has mounted many significant exhibitions which have contributed to the Island’s cultural diversity and education. It is now firmly established as an important Bermuda institution that, through its extensive programming, continues to encourage and promote appreciation of the visual arts throughout all segments of our community.

“I am very proud of what the National Gallery has achieved and as a serious art lover and collector I will continue to follow its progress with great interest and affection. I have no doubt that Gary Phillips along with the other trustees and the Gallery’s talented and dedicated staff will see the Gallery go from strength to strength in the coming years.”

Mr. White invited Mr. Phillips to join the Trustees of the Bermuda Fine Arts Trust five years ago, since when Mr. Phillips has chaired the Governance Committee and the Development Committee while also holding the position of Deputy Chairman.

Mr. Phillips said: “In accepting the chairmanship of this prestigious institution, I recognise and salute the gargantuan contribution of David White who encouraged me to become a trustee of The Bermuda National Gallery. I salute also the many founders of the Gallery whose vision has helped to shape this national institution. This is not only an exciting time for the arts in general but also for the Bermuda National Gallery in particular. I firmly believe that with the continued support of the Government through the Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs; with the commitment of our fellow trustees and staff; with the continued encouragement from our sponsors and supporters and with the steadfast loyalty of our many volunteers, the BNG, in partnership with the Corporation of Hamilton, can be assured of an exciting future.”

Since retiring from Government public service almost eight years ago Gary Phillips, former Director of Tourism, has dedicated himself to his two great passions - the arts and education. He is consulting secretary to the Board of Governors of his alma mater, The Berkeley Institute.

Maintaining and encouraging a close link between education and the arts was the motivation for his project last year to exhibit the works of former Berkeleyite, the late Charles Lloyd Tucker. The exhibition, sponsored jointly by the BNG and The Berkeley Educational Society, coincided with the opening of the Berkeley Institute at its new site

BNG Director Laura Gorham said Mr. White, the retired former editor of *The Royal Gazette*, had made many major contributions to the development of the Gallery during his successful tenure, during which he oversaw five Biennials and more than 60 exhibitions.

She said: “We are very sad that David has decided to step down. He has enriched the Gallery in so many ways and been an invaluable friend and champion of the visual arts in Bermuda. We are fortunate to have in Gary Phillips, a dedicated and dynamic successor and we look forward to him leading the Gallery forward into a new era.”

Mr. White was invited to the board by former chair Louise Jackson, and his chairmanship was announced simultaneously with the opening of the American Impressionist Exhibition in September 1997, upon his procurement of major sponsorship from AIG for their 50th anniversary.

Ms. Gorham said: “In addition to the American Impressionist Exhibition, other BNG exhibitions he was particularly proud of included *Made in Bermuda*, *A Window on the Azores*, and the recent *Living with Art* exhibition of African American Art which had been a dream of his since 1997.

“Through his chairmanship of the Collections Committee, he has helped build the BNG’s Permanent Collection and was instrumental in stewarding major gifts to the BNG, the most significant being the John Hinson Young II and Nelga Young Collection, which was presented to the BNG with an endowment in 2006. As a collector, he has shown his collection in *The Art of Collecting Art* (1996) and he has lent and given numerous significant artworks including the Edward James watercolour of St. George’s Harbour.”

As a parting gift to the Gallery, Mr. White presented the museum with an oil painting from his own collection by Mary Parker West (1817-1887), who was active in Bermuda in the 1870s. The painting of Hamilton Harbour (1876) looking west towards Pomander Road is significant as one of the earliest known Bermudian landscapes. The gift is to be made in the memory of his parents, Leslie A. and Stella (Hollis) White.

Note to editors

About the Bermuda National Gallery:

Opened in 1992 and located in the City Hall & Arts Centre in Hamilton, the Bermuda National Gallery is both the home of Bermuda's national art collection and the centre of the Island's thriving arts scene. It is the Island's leading art museum with a richly diverse exhibition programme of past and present works by local and international artists that reflects Bermuda's varied artistic heritage and multicultural community. The Bermuda National Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. Admission free. For more details contact Director Laura Gorham on 441-295-9428, director@bng.bm or visit www.bng.bm.