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**Collection:** First Lady, Office of the: Projects Office: Records  
**Folder Title:** Martha Graham Dance Company  
15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 09/15/1984  
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MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE CO. 15th ANN.

PRESERVATION COPY

PRESERVATION COPY

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

James S. Rosebush

NR

Here is one for  
you to decide.  
It should be  
just you and  
not the Pres.  
I suggest you do  
Honorary for the  
opening.

YES ✓ Jim's  
NO \_\_\_\_\_

# MARTHA GRAHAM CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE INC

President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President and Mrs. Reagan,

My childhood in Santa Barbara has made me feel a deep tie to California no matter how many years since that time my life has taken me from my first home. That is why the news that I am writing to you to share has a poignant significance for me.

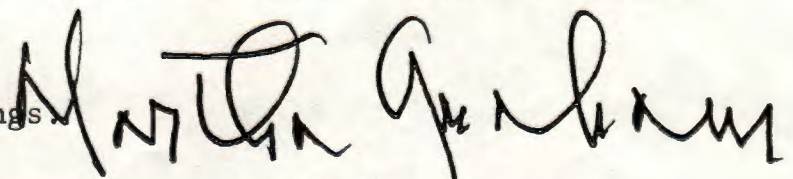
A Martha Graham Institute is to be established at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Institute will consist of not only a permanent school of dance throughout the year, but a residence for my company to perform and to film and thus in part preserve my ballets and technique. Dean Robert Gray, of UCLA's College of Fine Arts, feels that this will make a far reaching and important contribution to the level of dance training throughout the West Coast.

On September 15th my company will reopen officially the newly renovated Royce Hall; at that time the first announcement of the Institute will be made; the evening will in part be a fundraiser for my Company and the Institute.

It would mean so much to me personally and to the success of the evening if you would agree to become Honorary Chairmen of that evening and the Committee planning for the Institute. It had been suggested to me that there might be a possibility that you would also agree to be Honorary Chairman of the Homage Year which has been dedicated to me. Your lovely letter to me on the evening of my Company's New York State Season gives me the courage to ask all of this. But please know that if it is not in your area of possibility to participate I would more than understand. I would not dream of expecting you to attend the evening (your schedules I know are so demanding) but of course we would be honoured if you could attend.

I send you my fondest greetings.

Sincerely,



June 8, 1984

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR  
THE ARTS

WASHINGTON  
D.C. 20506



A Federal agency advised by the  
National Council on the Arts

June 27, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THERESA ELMORE

FROM: FRANK HODSOLL *Frank*

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY TO BE HONORARY  
CHAIRMAN OF REOPENING OF ROYCE HALL (UCLA) AND OF  
HOMAGE YEAR

Attached is a letter from Martha Graham to the President and Mrs. Reagan requesting the President and Mrs. Reagan to be Honorary Chairman of her Homage Year and of the opening on September 15th at Royce Hall. I strongly endorse this request. It would provide the President and Mrs. Reagan with an association with one of our great modern dance companies. Martha Graham has, of course, attended a number of White House functions, and her dancers were featured at one of the Young Performers Series.

The President and First Lady are often Honorary Chairmen of Washington and New York events. It would be particularly good for them to provide this kind of patronage for the UCLA opening of the Martha Graham Institute -- another East Coast-West Coast connection (similar to the Joffrey Ballet).

Martha would also like the President and First Lady to attend the September 15th event, but understands that their schedules may not permit this.

This is an important one, Theresa. The Martha Graham Institute at UCLA is an important milestone in the preservation of the work of one of America's very greatest modern dancers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Attachment

205d 3-7 18.

10/10/84

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

July 10, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JAMES ROSEBUSH

FROM:

THERESA A. ELMORE   
WHITE HOUSE LIAISON FOR  
THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

SUBJECT:

Request for President and First Lady  
to be Honorary Chairmen of the  
Reopening of Royce Hall (UCLA) and  
of Homage Year

The attached memorandum requests the President and First Lady to be Honorary Chairmen of the reopening of Royce Hall at UCLA and of Homage Year. Frank Hodsoll feels this is important, and strongly endorses this request. Note the request originates from Martha Graham.

Please review and advise.

Thank you.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 18, 1984

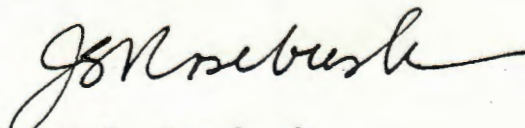
Dear Miss Graham:

Mrs. Reagan has asked me to respond to your recent letter regarding the Martha Graham Institute which is to be established at the University of California, Los Angeles. She was thrilled with your invitation for her to become the Honorary Chairman of the special evening planned for the opening of the Institute as well as the entire Homage Year. She accepts your invitation with deep gratitude.

Mrs. Reagan is keenly aware of the enormous contribution you have made to American dance and was so pleased to learn of the important decision made by the University to recognize you and your work. If the program planners need any materials from us, please have them contact me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



James S. Rosebush  
Deputy Assistant to the  
President

Miss Martha Graham  
316 East 63rd Street  
New York, New York 10021



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Ann  
FBI*

Date: August 28, 1984

TO: Deborah Bslfour

Both Elaine and Jim Rosebush talked with Allen Wallace and advised him that Mrs. Reagan would be the Honorary Chairman but would not be attending the event.

*ok - file*

FROM: Jane Erkenbeck  
2nd Floor - East Wing  
Ext. 2928

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Ann

For your files.

JSN

ok  
add to file

MARTHA GRAHAM CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE INC

August 20, 1984

*Answer  
to file  
jsh*

Mr. James Rosebush  
Deputy Assistant to  
the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20506

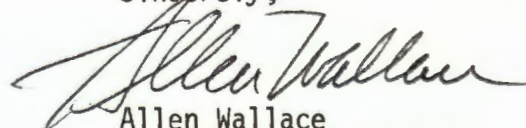
Dear Mr. Rosebush,

Enclosed please find a copy of the invitation for the September 15 Gala of the Martha Graham Dance Company in Los Angeles for which Mrs. Reagan is Honorary Chairman.

We are delighted that Mrs. Reagan has accepted our request to be Honorary Chairman. It would be wonderful if her schedule permits her to attend but, of course, we understand that with the election being so near to that date it may not be possible.

Thank you for your assistance and should you require any other information please contact me.

Sincerely,



Allen Wallace  
Director of Special Projects

encl.

# NANCY REAGAN

HONORARY CHAIRMAN

and the  
GALA COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMEN

ELIZABETH TAYLOR    GREGORY & VERONIQUE PECK    BETTY FORD  
HALSTON    DORIS DUKE    WALLIS ANNENBERG  
POLLY BERGEN    EVELYN SHARP    MARY CRONSON  
MILTON GOLDMAN    ALICE TULLY

invite you to attend the  
LOS ANGELES GALA TRIBUTE  
TO  
MARTHA GRAHAM  
SEPTEMBER 15, 1984

## Program

“Acts of Light”  
Cave of the Heart

AND THE  
WEST COAST PREMIERE  
OF  
The Rite of Spring

UCLA

Royce Hall Auditorium

Black Tie

Curtain 8:00 PM

Supper to follow on the Terrace of Royce Hall

The Martha Graham Center wishes to express its appreciation to Pan American World Airways whose generous contribution of air travel during the tribute year to Martha Graham makes possible the European and West Coast tours of the Martha Graham Dance Company.



LOS ANGELES TRIBUTE  
TO

# MARTHA GRAHAM

**NANCY REAGAN**  
HONORARY CHAIRMAN

**LOS ANGELES TRIBUTE  
TO**

**MARTHA GRAHAM**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 2, 1984

**TO:** Ann Wrobleski

**FROM:** *Theresa A. Elmore*  
*White House Liaison for*  
*the Arts and Humanities*

For your files.

Thanks for your guidance.

Attachment

June 21, 1984

Dear Miss Graham:

Thank you for your recent invitation to the President and Mrs. Reagan to become honorary chairmen of the opening of the Martha Graham Institute, September 15, 1984.

You were very thoughtful to extend this opportunity to the President and the First Lady. Although they are both honored by your request, unfortunately, they have asked me to send their regrets to you. Long ago, they established a policy of limiting their chairmanships to those events in which they could personally participate. And, due to the heavy demands of their schedules at this time, they will be unable to be honorary chairmen and attend the dedication in September.

However, on behalf of both the President and the First Lady, please accept our very warmest wishes for a most exciting day in September. Your contributions to dancing are immeasurable, and I know that the establishment of the Martha Graham Institute will inspire others to follow in your footsteps.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.  
Director, Presidential  
Appointments and Scheduling

Miss Martha Graham  
Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Inc.  
316 East 63rd Street  
New York, New York 10021

FJR:JAJ  
bcc: Michael K. Deaver

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

July 10, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JAMES ROSEBUSH

FROM:

THERESA A. ELMORE   
WHITE HOUSE LIAISON FOR  
THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

SUBJECT:

Request for President and First Lady  
to be Honorary Chairmen of the  
Reopening of Royce Hall (UCLA) and  
of Homage Year

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Please review and advise.

Thank you.

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