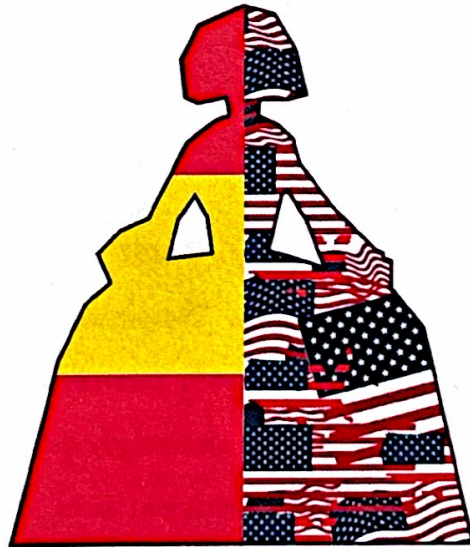


*In the presence of
Her Majesty Queen Sofia*

THE QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE
PRESENTS THE

2024 Sophia Awards for Excellence



NOVEMBER 4, 2024

*The University Club
New York City*

Mission

QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE

The Queen Sofía Spanish Institute (QSSI) is a New York-based nonprofit corporation founded in 1954 by a group of American Hispanophiles, who sought to stimulate American interest in the art, culture, customs, language, literature and history of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world. Today, the QSSI keeps this vision current by striving to share the contributions of Spanish-speakers to the United States and by showcasing the excellence of the Spanish-speaking world in numerous fields so that lasting ties of friendship may be formed, mutual understanding promoted, and bonds of peace strengthened.

Sophia Award for Excellence

Named after the Greek word for wisdom “Sophia,” this award is presented to a person or organization that has actively contributed to the international appreciation of Spain and the Americas through a donation of time, expertise, and an innate wisdom in the areas of sciences, arts, or humanities.

Program

WELCOME

Dixie De Luca
Chair, Sophia Awards for Excellence
Board Member, Queen Sofia Spanish Institute

Pilar Lladó Arburúa
Chair, Board of Directors
Queen Sofia Spanish Institute

2024 Sophia Awards for Excellence

Honoree

GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

VIDEO PROGRAM

AWARD PRESENTATION

Her Majesty Queen Sofia

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HONOREE

DINNER, FIRST COURSE

Musical Performance

Gregorio Nieto, Cellist
Riko Higuma, Pianist

DINNER, SECOND COURSE

REMARKS

M. Begonia Santos
Executive Director, COO and Board Member
Queen Sofia Spanish Institute

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE

VIDEO PROGRAM

CELEBRATORY DESSERT

Welcome

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute (QSSI), known in 1954 as the Spanish Institute and renamed in 2003 after its Patroness of Honor, Her Majesty Queen Sofía. It is with great pleasure that we welcome all of you, friends from New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Venezuela, Spain and beyond, to the 2024 Sophia Awards for Excellence gala.

We gather tonight to celebrate the excellence of the Spanish-speaking world embodied in Maestro Gustavo Dudamel. The excellence that Maestro Dudamel has consistently demonstrated in his extraordinary career as a conductor and teacher; as an inspiration to a multitude of young musicians; and in his philanthropic work through the Dudamel Foundation constitutes the essence of the values that the Sophia Awards for Excellence seek to recognize.

Tonight we also celebrate the QSSI, recognizing 70 years of work stimulating interest in the United States for the history and culture of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world and for promoting among the Spanish-speaking peoples of the world, the knowledge and the understanding of ideals, culture and customs of the people of the United States. Music, passionately reflected in the work of Maestro Dudamel, and cultural knowledge, at the core of the QSSI's mission, are the ideal tools to reach these worthy objectives so hard to attain in today's divided world.

This past year has seen great advances in the reach of the programs and activities of the QSSI. As the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. in 2026 approaches, there is a greater curiosity and interest in broadening the knowledge of all who contributed to the creation of this great experiment called the United States. The American Revolution is now being studied in the context of the XVIII century global war between superpowers, opening the path for voices that traditionally have gone ignored to be heard, and for new discoveries, new analysis, and new interpretations of the past through rigorous academic research. The QSSI is proud to be a part of this conversation through its robust activities in the fields of history and education.

The support and commitment of H. M. Queen Sofía to philanthropic work remains steadfast and strong year after year, whether in the fields of medical research, environmental protection, music, or food banks, among many others. This commitment constitutes an invaluable source of inspiration for all of us at the Institute, and for that we are deeply grateful.

The generous support of the QSSI Board and the contributions of the QSSI Cultural Committee allow the mission to reach a wider audience every year. Last, but not by any means least, the support of the friends and followers of the Institute pushes us forward to carry out our mission in a way that makes a positive and lasting impact on the audiences we reach and that is deserving of your patronage.

With warm regards,

M. Begonia Santos
Executive Director & COO

Pilar Lladó Arburúa
Chair, Board of Directors

Her Majesty Queen Sofia

OUR PATRONESS

In 2003, H. M. Queen Sofia accepted the Board of Directors' unanimous request to rename the Institute in Her honor, in recognition of Her unwavering support of the mission. Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain is a dedicated patron of the Institute and maintains an active role in promoting Spanish culture in the Americas.

Throughout her reign, Queen Sofia has focused on charitable works with a special interest in medicine. Her Majesty is the Executive President of the Fundación Reina Sofía, dedicated to promoting educational and health projects, as well as initiatives involving social and humanitarian assistance which benefit children, the elderly, immigrants, the disabled, and those affected by natural disasters. One of the major programs of the Fundación Reina Sofía is the Alzheimer's Center, a residential facility for 156 Alzheimer's patients; a day care center for 40 patients; a research unit on Alzheimer's; and a training center for healthcare professionals, family members, and volunteers.

Her Majesty is the Honorary President of the Reina Sofía Music School, created in 1991. Since then, the school has worked to advance two objectives: to support highly talented young people in their personal and artistic development and to bring the best music to all audiences.

Her Majesty is also involved with international projects closely related to Her own personal interests, which include the environment, international cooperation and development, and micro-financing.

2024 Honorees

GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

Gustavo Dudamel is committed to creating a better world through music. Guided by an unwavering belief in the power of art to inspire and transform lives, he has worked tirelessly to expand education and access for underserved communities around the world, and to broaden the impact of classical music to new and ever-larger audiences. His rise, from humble beginnings as a child in Venezuela to an unparalleled career of artistic and social achievements, offers living proof that culture can bring meaning to the life of an individual and greater harmony to the world at large. He currently serves as the Music & Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, and in 2026, he becomes the Music and Artistic Director of the New York Philharmonic, continuing a legacy that includes Gustav Mahler, Arturo Toscanini, and Leonard Bernstein.

QUEEN SOFÍA SPANISH INSTITUTE

Since its establishment 70 years ago, the QSSI has carried its mission forward by sharing the contributions of the Spanish-speakers to the history and culture of the United States and by showcasing the excellence of the Spanish-speaking world in numerous fields so that lasting ties of friendship may be formed.

The QSSI achieves this vision through cultural and educational activities, including lectures, symposia and book presentations addressing relevant topics in public affairs, business, science, and the arts, all pertaining to the U.S. and Spain's rich shared history. The QSSI also has a long history of recognizing the excellence of the Spanish-speaking world through its Gold Medal and Sophia Award for Excellence, which have been bestowed upon distinguished leaders in many different fields.

The QSSI has sponsored lectures, exhibitions, prizes, and concerts; held receptions to bring together distinguished members of the Hispanic and U.S. intellectual world; and promoted the exchange of students, scholars, artists and musicians between Spanish-speaking countries and the U.S.

Today, the QSSI is a leading platform connecting Spanish and American cultural institutions in a myriad of impactful programs.

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What's Happening

HISTORY

Over the last six years, the Institute has placed a special focus on building awareness and appreciation of Spain's contributions to the history of the United States. In the past year, our history programming has included the following:

In anticipation of the 250th anniversary in 2026 of the United States' independence, the QSSI launched the *America&Spain250* initiative which aims to celebrate 250 years of the shared past, present and continued friendship between the United States, Spain and the Spanish-speaking world.

The official launching event of the *America&Spain250* initiative was the *First Symposium of America&Spain250: Commemorating the two hundred and fifty years of relations between Spain and the United States 1776-2026*, celebrated last May in Madrid in collaboration with the Fundación Ramón Areces. Under the academic direction of Prof. Richard Kagan, U.S.-based professors presented their most recent research on timely issues such as the "invisible" immigration of Spanish citizens to the U.S. in the XIX and XX centuries, espionage by the *Falange* in the U.S. following the Spanish Civil War, and the arrival of Sephardic Jews to the American Southwest, among others. This inaugural two-day symposium with twelve professors and seven additional presenters will be followed by a second symposium which will take place in the United States in 2025.

In October of 2023, the QSSI supported the New York City presentation of the latest book by Amb. Eduardo Garrigues *El Abraham de Nuevo México: La exposición del diputado Pedro Baptista Pino*, which uncovered a previously unpublished report to the Spanish Cortes about the Southwest, then Nueva España.

EDUCATION

As part of its educational programming, in collaboration with the Dirección General de Bilingüismo y Calidad de la Enseñanza of the Comunidad de Madrid (Autonomous Region of Madrid) and the Royal Academy of History, the QSSI created the bilingual English and Spanish *Quizstory Podcast Award*, a contest based on *Quizstory: Spanish Friendship*, an educational app developed by the Institute. The award ceremony took place in Instituto Superior Madrileño de Innovación Educativa on May 20th with the attendance and participation of hundreds of students, and this project has been renewed for a second year.

In the context of Hispanic Heritage Month and in collaboration with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (GLI) and the Royal Academy of History, the Institute launched the educational platform *Spanish Influence on American History* on September 13th. This comprehensive online platform on the GLI website (gilderlehrman.org) highlights Spain's crucial contributions to the history of the United States throughout the centuries. It starts with the Spanish contribution to the American Revolution and provides a wealth of educational materials and digital resources for teachers, students, and history lovers such as lesson plans, primary

sources, videos, and other educational content in both Spanish and English. This free compendium of resources has been distributed to over 36,000 schools in the U.S. and abroad. This initiative is part of a long-term partnership between the three organizations, aimed at illustrating the profound and lasting impact of Spain on U.S. history and disseminating the Royal Academy of History's extensive research throughout the U.S.

MUSIC

In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month in 2023, the QSSI was a proud promotional partner of various musical performances that featured classical composers such as Manuel de Falla and Pablo Casals, alongside celebrated contemporary artists like the late Stephen Sondheim whose final musical *Here We Are* premiered at The Shed. The QSSI supported Teatro Real, the Royal Opera of Madrid, in *Authentic Flamenco* at Fundación Ángel Orensanz and at their Grand Gala in New York at Lincoln Center. The QSSI also partnered with the Franz Schubert Filharmonia, a Tarragona-based symphony orchestra, to make their Carnegie Hall debut in 2023.

FILM

In February of 2024, as part of the Paco de Lucía Legacy Festival, the QSSI organized the screening of the documentary "La Búsqueda" directed by de Lucía's son Curro Sánchez and awarded with the 2015 Goya for best documentary. The sold-out screening was held at the Quad Cinema historic theater followed by a Q&A with the director.

PERFORMING ARTS

In the presence of Her Majesty Queen Sofía, in June 2024 the QSSI partnered with the Fundación Reina Sofía to support the Sunset Gala at the Alhambra. Many supporters of the Institute, including members of the Houston Friends of the Queen Sofía Spanish Institute, attended. This once in a lifetime event at the Alhambra palace and gardens included a performance of the National Ballet of Spain and supported research on Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases.

For the second consecutive year, the QSSI coordinated the Selection Committee of Spain's Academy of Performing Arts' Talía Awards for "Best Contemporary Hispanic Performing Arts Production in New York" and led this jury in its deliberations. The award ceremony took place in Madrid in April 2024 at Teatro Español.

In June 2024, in a collaboration with Pregones/Puerto Rico Traveling Theater (PRTT), the QSSI hosted *Connecting Stages: Talía Awards in NY*, a celebration of the 2024 Talía Award winners and nominees from New York City.

FINANCE & BUSINESS

In April of 2024, the QSSI worked in partnership with the student organizers of the XV Edition of *Conferencia MBA España*, an annual conference of Spanish students earning MBAs at American universities. The QSSI co-sponsored the opening

event of the conference with the Hispanic Society of America museum. The QSSI invited speakers in the sectors of business, finance, and publishing for the conference which took place at the Columbia Business School in New York.

ART

The QSSI proudly sponsored the exhibition *Analogue Sites* by Jorge Otero-Pailos, a Spanish American artist, architect and Columbia University professor of historical preservation. The exhibit, a collaboration with the Fund for Park Avenue, the Onera Foundation and Spain's AECID, among others, opened at the Park Avenue malls, one of the world's most prestigious public art spaces, in April of 2024. Otero-Pailos is the fourth Spanish artist to exhibit his work on the malls. Inspired by Cold War-era embassies as places of cultural exchange, *Analogue Sites* advocates for preserving modernist architecture and explores the role of American modern art in diplomatic history. Prior to the exhibition, in January 2024 Otero-Pailos exhibited at The Winter Show at the Park Avenue Armory and joined the conversation *Contemporary Art and Cold War Embassies*.

The QSSI held a conversation around the exhibition *Francesc Tosquelles: Avant-Garde Psychiatry and the Birth of Art Brut* at the American Folk Art Museum with the exhibition's co-curator Carles Guerra and renowned psychiatrist and former head of NYC hospitals Dr. Luis Rojas-Marcos. The presentation addressed mental health and the legacy of Spanish psychiatrist Francesc Tosquelles and was followed by curator-led tours of the exhibit.

TRANSLATION

The QSSI Translation Prize, designed to elevate Spanish-language literature in the U.S., awards \$10,000 to the best English-language translation of a Spanish literary work. Charlotte Whittle won the 2023 prize for her translation of *Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World* by Irene Vallejo, and the keynote speaker, Colombian writer Juan Gabriel Vásquez presented her with the award at the ceremony. The 2024 Translation Prize ceremony will take place on November 21st in New York City.

SCIENCE

The QSSI is a proud sponsor of the *Ellas son Ciencia / Women are Science* exhibition by MECUSA and Spanish illustrator Quan Zhou, that opened in March of 2024 at NYU's King Juan Carlos Center. The exhibition is part of a larger project aimed at promoting Spanish female role models in STEM, inspiring the next generation of scientists.

JUNIOR COMMITTEE

The QSSI Jr. Committee, a group of young professionals based primarily in New York City, organized over twenty activities from the latter half of 2023 to the present. These included private museum exhibition visits, social happy hours, and trips to see musical, film, and theater performances related to the QSSI mission.

With Gratitude

The Queen Sofía Spanish Institute Board of Directors would like to extend its appreciation to all our supporters, past and present, who have stood alongside us during this remarkable 70 year journey. Every contribution is an affirmation of our mission, and we are extremely grateful for your patronage.

We are fortunate that the following individuals enthusiastically partnered with us in creating this evening's event. Their collective contributions ensured this event's success.

Dixie De Luca
Chair, 2024 Sophia Awards for Excellence

Nancy M. Kissinger
Chair, Host Committee

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Maha Khan

María Isabel Torras

María Amalia León

IN-KIND DONATIONS

We are extremely grateful to the following for donating their products and services which will allow us to use every possible dollar raised tonight for our mission-critical programs.

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Cora Capriles

Gregorio Nieto

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Floral Design <i>Tin Can Studios</i>	Photographer <i>Camille Garzon</i>	

The 2024 Sophia Awards for Excellence Donors

A special thanks is extended to Nancy M. Kissinger for leading an extraordinary Host Committee. A further special thanks is extended to Cora Capriles and Luis Delgado in the solicitation of the majority of tonight’s guests.

TABLE SPONSORS

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BENEFACTOR TICKET(S) \$2,500

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