The Hot Springs Area Cultural Alliance presented it 2026 Arts Ambassador Award to Martha Smither on November 7, 2026 at it's *The Gala: POP* event at the Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa. Martha's leadership has expanded access to arts education and meaningful cultural experiences for children throughout the region.

Smither is the founder and board president of Arkansas Learning Through the Arts, an organization dedicated to enriching education through meaningful arts experiences. Her leadership reflects her longstanding belief that the arts should be an essential part of every child's education. She also serves on the board of the Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village Symphony Guild and leads the organization of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Children's Concert in Hot Springs, which introduces area students to the excitement of live orchestral music and provides many with their first opportunity to experience a professional symphony orchestra.

"Martha does much more than support the arts—she creates opportunities for children to experience them," Martha Jane Murray, HSACA Board Chair, said. "Through Arkansas Learning Through the Arts and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Children's Concert, she has opened young minds to music, creativity and new ways of learning. Her vision, generosity and dedication truly represent what it means to be an Arts Ambassador."

Smither and her husband, Wilbur, moved to Hot Springs Village in 2000 and became deeply involved in community service. Their extensive volunteer contributions earned them the Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association Board President's Award in 2012. Smither was named the Hot Springs Village Voice Citizen of the Year in 2013 and was selected as the 2024 Hot Springs Women's Leadership Alliance Woman of Influence.

She is also a former chair of the Hot Springs Village Community Foundation. Her community service includes involvement with Altrusa International, P.E.O., the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Hot Springs

Women’s Leadership Alliance. Throughout more than 25 years of volunteer service, her commitment to arts education and cultural access has remained a defining part of her community impact.