

**Matthew Earl Jones
2025 Architect of Change**

March 1, 2025

Matthew Earl Jones: your commitment to film, culture and our state is panoramic and inspired. As director of the Arizona Office of Film and Digital Media, you have brought your expertise as a director, producer, entrepreneur, mentor and teacher to bear on so many facets of the industry. Your deliberate leadership as our state's Film Commissioner ensures that Arizona that our state has impact on the industry and that it models the best of workforce development, intentional mentorship and welcoming access.

Your love of storytelling and your careful attention to the past and present bear witness, too, to the power of family. You honor your father—the pioneering actor Robert Earl Jones whose determination to hone his craft in ways that defied the narrowness of culture and justice that permeated his American world. Your unshakeable bond with your brother James Earl Jones and your commitment to their memories reminds us that love, genius and persistence are a trifecta. We honor you today as an transformative Architect of Change.