



JERSEYARTS.COM ANNOUNCES WINNERS IN SIXTH ANNUAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS
Cultural organizations from throughout New Jersey are honored following public voting

BURLINGTON, NJ (February 11, 2014) – The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the Sixth Annual JerseyArts.com People's Choice Awards, following a record-breaking number of voters and nominees. The annual Awards, which honor the work of New Jersey's vital, vibrant and diverse arts community, saw nearly 12,000 ballots cast this year for arts organizations statewide.

More than 70 nonprofit arts groups and eight arts districts were nominated for the Awards by members of the arts community. From the nominees, the public chose winners in 14 categories, with the ArtPride staff recognizing three additional organizations with Honorable Mentions.

"Paper Mill Playhouse is both humbled and honored to receive two People's Choice Awards this year," remarked Todd Schmidt, Paper Mill Playhouse Managing Director. "These awards are a gift from the audiences and students we serve throughout the State of New Jersey."

The Sixth Annual JerseyArts.com People's Choice Awards Winners:

- Favorite Performing Arts Center: New Jersey Performing Arts Center–NJPAC (Newark)
- Favorite Theater to See a Musical: Paper Mill Playhouse (Millburn)
- Favorite Theater to See a Play: Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey (Madison)
- Favorite Art Museum: Grounds For Sculpture (Hamilton)
- Favorite Art Gallery: Arts Council of Princeton (Princeton)
- Favorite Symphony/Orchestra: New Jersey Symphony Orchestra–NJSO (Newark)
- Favorite Choral Group: Westminster Choir (Princeton)
- Favorite Opera Company: Opera at The Princeton Festival (Princeton)
- Favorite Dance Company: New Jersey Ballet (Livingston)
- Favorite Music Festival: Jersey Shore Jazz & Blues Festival (Asbury Park, Long Branch, Point Pleasant)
- Favorite Film Festival: Montclair Film Festival (Montclair)
- Favorite Place to Take an Adult Art Class: Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (Summit)
- Favorite Place to Take a Kid's Art Class: Paper Mill Playhouse Theatre School (Millburn)
- Favorite Downtown Arts District: Montclair

In addition, three organizations are being recognized with Honorable Mentions:

- Top Runner-Up: Mayo Performing Arts Center (Morristown)
- Most Write-In Votes: Montclair Art Museum's Yard School of Art (Montclair)
- Favorite South Jersey Theater: Surfflight Theatre (Beach Haven)

"We appreciate the support we received from our patrons, our community and the local businesses who supported our effort," said Allison Larena, President and CEO of Mayo Performing Arts Center, of receiving the Honorable Mention for Top Runner-Up. "Our outstanding results are reflective of the loyalty and enthusiasm that our patrons and supporters have toward our performing arts center, and why they continue to come back year after year."

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Winners from the Sixth Annual People's Choice Awards will be honored at the New Jersey Conference on Tourism, held March 19-20, 2014 at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City.

For detailed results and more information, visit <http://JerseyArts.com/peopleschoice>.

The JerseyArts.com People's Choice Awards are coordinated through the Discover Jersey Arts program, a cosponsored project of the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation and New Jersey State Council on the Arts aimed at increasing the awareness of and participation in the arts.

About JerseyArts.com and Discovery Jersey Arts

JerseyArts.com is the official website of Discover Jersey Arts, a cosponsored project of the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation and New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State dedicated to increasing the awareness of and participation in the arts in New Jersey. The site features a comprehensive cultural event calendar and arts directory; feature stories and podcasts; details on Jersey Arts Membership, including discounts and exclusive member events; an online gallery of New Jersey artists; and other content about the state's cultural community.

About the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation

The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation is the programs and services arm of ArtPride New Jersey, Inc., a nonprofit coalition of organizations and individuals that advocates at local, state and national levels for funding, support and recognition of the arts as vital to New Jersey's economy, education and overall quality of life. For more information about ArtPride visit ArtPrideNJ.com.

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Editor's Note: *Additional quotes available for use below.*

"Montclair Film Festival connects New Jersey through motion pictures, and is part of a regional arts, entertainment and dining destination — Montclair Center," said Robert Jackson, Mayor of Montclair. "We are honored to have both of these win their second JerseyArts.com People's Choice Award. Montclair means art, and New Jersey knows it."

"We are thrilled by this recognition," said Luther Flurry, Executive Director of Montclair Center BID, of Montclair being named Favorite Downtown Arts District. "Whether you are talking world-class shows, or local buskers, the Arts are always front and center in Montclair!"

"For the Montclair Film Festival, winning this award twice in a row shows us we're doing something right and people are loving the festival," Bob Feinberg, Chairman of the Festival. "We're honored to accept this award and can't wait for our third edition from April 28-May 4."

"The NJPAC staff, from ushers to teaching artists to programmers and marketers, are proud to stand behind this recognition and thank the voters who made us New Jersey's Favorite Performing Arts Center," said John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC. "This award is a credit to our hard work and dedication, and we're grateful to be a part of this culturally rich state."

"We are so thankful for the outpouring of support from the community that we serve," said Mark S. Hoebee, Producing Artistic Director of Paper Mill Playhouse. "We are overjoyed to receive an award for our Paper Mill Playhouse Theatre School, which has served the community and the state for more than 25 years. Programs like our Theatre School, Adult Theater Classes, classes for students with autism and other developmental disabilities and our Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory give students a supportive environment in which to study and explore elements of performance and learn essential life skills."