



Creating our future, together.

July 26, 2016

To The Citizens of New Jersey,

Welcome to the historic seat of New Jersey state government where, fifty years ago this week, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts was born! In honor of this momentous occasion, we are holding this year's Annual Meeting in the beautifully appointed Assembly Chamber for the first time ever—and what a fitting location to commemorate our Golden Anniversary.

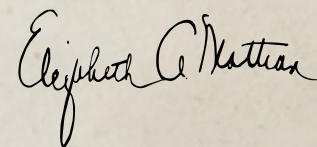
The men and women who have been sent here to represent the people of New Jersey for the past five decades have held fast to the vision embodied in our founding statute—written by Assemblyman Charles Farrington, a Mercer County Democrat; Assemblyman Douglas Gimson, a Hunterdon County Republican; and signed into law by Governor Richard J. Hughes on July 29, 1966:

- To foster public interest in the arts,
- To increase resources for the arts,
- To promote freedom of expression in the arts, and
- To facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey.

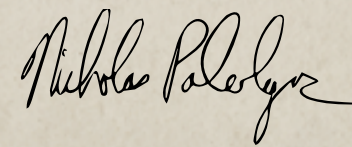
From our modest beginnings with an appropriation of \$75,000 and a grant of another \$50,000 from the newly established National Endowment for the Arts, we are now awarding at least \$16 million annually to New Jersey artists and arts organizations which are among the highest caliber in the country.

It would be impossible to capture every noteworthy highlight of the past fifty years in a brief commemorative program such as this. But we hope, together with our short 50th Anniversary Film—which will premiere today at our Annual Meeting—that you will get a flavor for the richness, depth, and diversity that is the New Jersey arts scene.


We are extremely proud of the fact that – because of the continued support from within these hallowed halls – New Jersey remains a national leader in public funds for the arts. We are fond of saying that “Arts Mean Business” but on a day like today we are also mindful of the fact that they mean so very much more.



Elizabeth Mattson, Chair



Nick Paleologos, Executive Director



We believe *the arts are central to every element we value most in a modern society including: human understanding, cultural and civic pride, strong communities, excellent schools, lifelong learning, creative expression and economic opportunity.*

1966-
1969

In 1965, President Johnson created the National Endowment for the Arts and called on all states to play a key partnership role in distributing and matching federal resources for the arts.



Courtesy of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library



New Jersey State Archives; Department of State

“I am proud that the time has come in our society when government can aid the arts. We are in effect saying that public commitment to the artistic life of the state and nation are as important as public commitment to any other essential phase of human endeavor.”

— New Jersey Governor Richard Hughes

“Art is a nation’s most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves, and to others, the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish.”

— President Lyndon B. Johnson

The Early Years

The Council hires its first executive director, Byron Kelly, adopts its first program objectives and sets out to find the most effective ways to support the arts, and to bring the arts to more people.

Statewide Arts Programs

The first New Jersey state-wide Teen Arts Festival is held.

New Jersey State Council on the Arts Created

In 1966, New Jersey Governor Richard Hughes signs Public Law Chapter 214 creating the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to distribute funds and support the growing arts and cultural community in all ways possible.

Arts in Education

Four Writers in the Schools residencies are undertaken. This is the beginning of the New Jersey Writers Project, an arts education program serving schools still sponsored by the Council today.

Project Grants

The first project grants are made to support 11 arts projects in the state.



1970-1979

The Council's core programs begin to take shape throughout this decade. Public Arts, Arts Education, Folk Arts, the Local Arts Program, Artist Fellowships, Advocacy and Communications programs all begin in the 70's.



An Investment in Public Art

The State Arts Council is sponsoring arts in state parks, a precursor to today's Public Arts Inclusion program.



County Arts Agencies Take Flight

A State-County Partnership emerges under Director Eileen Lawton and Assistant Director Jacque Rubel, who see the unique opportunity to boost local arts development through support to a network of County Arts Agencies.

Beginnings of the Local Arts Program

The Council begins to build relationships with new, county-level Heritage Commissions, soon to be known as County Cultural & Heritage Commissions or County Arts Agencies.

Ten Years & A Million Dollars

The Council, up to a \$1,000,000 budget and a staff of seven, is funding work in schools, parks, libraries and even prisons. In a ten-year retrospective the Council's second Director, Brann Wry, writes, "Interest in the arts is growing at unprecedented speed and artists and arts groups are being given greater opportunities to present their unique talents to audiences of all types and in all places."

New Jersey's Arts Inclusion Act

Passage of the Arts Inclusion Act to commission artwork for state financed construction projects provides the Council's public art program a new stream of funding, and artists new opportunities for commissions.

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1979

Fellowships to Artists

The first Artist Fellowships are awarded; six in all, including one to a talented but fairly unknown clay artist named Toshiko Takaezo.

Artists in Education

The Artists in Education Residency Program places artists in schools. 44 years later, the AIE program is still going strong, serving schools and students throughout the state with deep, long-term artist residency programs.



A New Partner

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation is established. Dodge remains one of the NJSCA's key partners in funding New Jersey arts organizations and arts in education programs today.

Artists Teach Teachers

The Council conducts the very first Artist/Teacher Institute at Sandy Hook. This important hands-on arts learning institute for teachers and artists still exists today.



1980-
1989

“The Kean Years” as they are fondly remembered by the arts community in New Jersey, represented the single largest growth spurt for public investment in the arts. It is during this period that the Council’s major partnerships begin to form and the Council enjoys its largest period of sustained growth in its 50 years.



County Arts Agencies are Growing

16 county arts agencies are receiving funding to support 225 local arts programs. By 2016, all 21 Counties have active County Arts Agencies supporting nearly 500 local arts organizations through Council re-grants.

Arts In Focus

The Council convenes its first Arts in Focus Conference to examine what makes an effective state arts agency. From this came the Council’s first long-range plan setting program goals and strategies.



Banding Together

The Governor urges the arts community to express itself more vocally and a group of arts supporters calling itself ArtPride bands together and marches on Trenton in 1984 and 1985 to show support for increased arts funding.

Diversity & Arts Education Programs Flourish

The first Southern New Jersey Arts Initiative, Minority Arts Initiative, New Jersey Arts Annual exhibitions, and Arts Basic to Education Grants occur, as does the report of the Literacy in the Arts Task Force.

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1988

1989

Changes in the Statehouse

Tom Kean is elected Governor and appoints Jane Burgio as the first woman Secretary of State and Al Felzenberg as her Assistant.

Theatres Unite

A group of five theatres under Arts Council leadership form a coalition called the New Jersey Theatre Group, now known as the New Jersey Theater Alliance, a national model of service excellence to the theatre community.



State of the Arts

The Council begins co-production of “State of the Arts”, a weekly television show highlighting art and artists around the state. Still in production today, the show has been recognized with 16 Emmy awards so far.



1990-1999

As the “culture wars” in Washington unfold, funding uncertainties arise in a rapidly shifting political landscape, and the Council’s budget suffers. From 1990 to 1994 arts funding in New Jersey is cut by more than half. Partnerships are developed to help continue the Council’s programs through collaboration with arts organizations throughout the state.



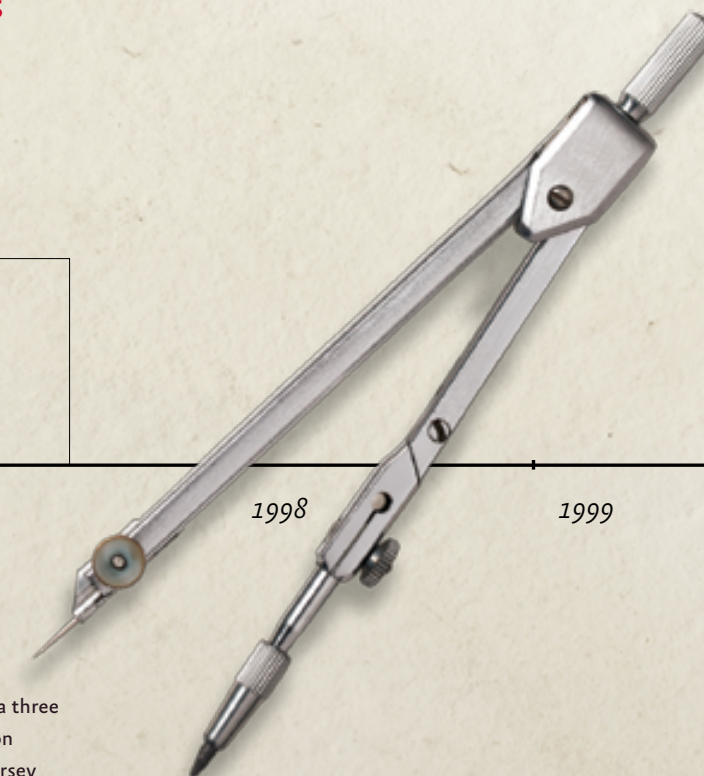
Access for Everyone

With passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Council works with the New Jersey Theatre Group to develop the New Jersey Arts Access Task Force, known today as the Cultural Access Network Project.



New Jersey Performing Arts Center Opens It’s Doors

In 1986 Governor Kean commissioned a statewide study to identify where best to build a world-class arts center. A decade later, thanks to a \$30 million lead gift, private funders, and state and federal support, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark opens its doors.



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1998

1999

Partnerships Emerge

Between 1991-1994, the Council develops a variety of new partnerships in arts education, folk arts and in support of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



New Energy in South Jersey

The South Jersey Cultural Alliance is established

Arts Plan New Jersey

The Council joins forces with New Jersey Network for a three day Governor’s Conference which leads to the formation of Arts Plan New Jersey, a blueprint for a better New Jersey through the arts. Arts Plan paves the way for cross-sector partnerships, a permanent source of funding, a statewide arts marketing campaign, better arts advocacy and so much more.



2000-
2009

The new century finds the Arts Council working collaboratively with a mature cadre of partners developed through forty plus years of programs, initiatives and strategic planning. Funding ebbs and flows during the decade, but thankfully, the arts community in New Jersey is strong, and effective advocacy helps restore funding to ensure the Council's support of New Jersey artists and arts organizations into the future.



Access For All

The Council receives the National Accessibility Leadership Award for its work through the Cultural Access Network Project actively supporting a comprehensive approach to arts access for all.

\$22.68 Million

Council funding reaches \$22.68 million — a new high water mark, which remains the record level for funding to this date.



Arts in New Jersey Schools

The newly established New Jersey Arts Education Partnership completes a landmark survey of arts education in all New Jersey K-12 public schools. The Council, together with the Department of Education, the Dodge Foundation, and the state's education associations helps New Jersey become the first in the nation to include the arts as core subjects.

Poetry Out Loud

In collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Council launches the New Jersey Poetry Out Loud program, which becomes the fastest growing Poetry Out Loud program in the country. New Jersey's high school poetry recitation competition – which began with only 7 schools — ranks first in the nation for both student (37,644) and teacher (908) participation by 2016.

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

New Jersey Cultural Trust

The Cultural Trust is created, in 2001 forms its board and begins supporting arts and history projects statewide.

20 by 2000

The advocacy goal of a Council budget of \$20 million by the year 2000 is achieved under Governor Christine Todd Whitman.

Discover Jersey Arts

Discover Jersey Arts is launched with the mission to increase awareness of and participation in the arts statewide. Today the multifaceted program supports a membership of 43,000 people and an interactive website with more than 3.5 million visitors annually.



Crisis Averted

Unexpectedly, Governor McGreevey proposes zero funding for the Arts Council, Historical Commission and Cultural Trust. A well orchestrated advocacy campaign persuades key legislators, notably Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts, to introduce a measure to fund them all, and at increased future levels from a new source of dedicated revenue (NJ Hotel/Motel Occupancy Fee). Passed in the Assembly, but deadlocked in the Senate, Senator Leonard Lance crossed the aisle to cast the deciding vote in favor.



2010-
2016

Navigating through the turbulent waters of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, the Council focuses on preserving stability in the field while at the same time reinforcing its reputation as a national leader in arts policy.



©Healing Arts-Newton Medical Center Atlantic Health System

Wellness Through the Arts

As an outgrowth of Arts Plan, the Alliance for Arts and Health New Jersey is established as a network to connect professionals in the healthcare industry and the arts for mutually beneficial results.

An Alliance for Response

Superstorm Sandy devastates parts of New Jersey, and the Council joins with local and national partners to assist artists and arts organizations with recovery. Cultural Trust grants are restructured in the wake of Sandy to give special consideration to organizations impacted by the storm. And the Council works to establish the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR), a statewide emergency preparation network for history and cultural organizations – the first of its kind in the country.



Art Matters

The Council's new interactive web tool, "Art Matters", becomes available to everyone online and contains over a hundred short videos on the impact of the arts everywhere in New Jersey. Art Matters is cited by the National Association of State Arts Agencies as a national model for the use of technology in arts advocacy.

Tony Award

Perennial Council grantee, Paper Mill Playhouse, wins Broadway's highest honor, the Antoinette Perry Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

Arts Mean Business

Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno launches an "Arts Mean Business" tour showcasing the success stories of several New Jersey cities and towns that have put the arts at the center of their downtown revitalization efforts. The campaign concluded in Rahway with a forum on Creative Placemaking moderated by National Endowment for the Arts Chairman, Rocco Landesman.

Resources Online

The complete text of all Council publications dating back to 1966 are digitized and made available to the public on the Council's official state website.

Measuring Arts Participation in Schools

New Jersey becomes the first state in the nation to measure arts participation on its annual education report cards. This is the next step in the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership's ongoing effort to help all New Jersey children have access to a complete education that includes the arts.

Happy Birthday New Jersey!

The Council partners with state cultural agencies to sponsor a family arts and cultural festival in honor of New Jersey's 350th Anniversary. The celebration includes a cultural exchange with our state's namesake in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Jersey.



Golden Anniversary

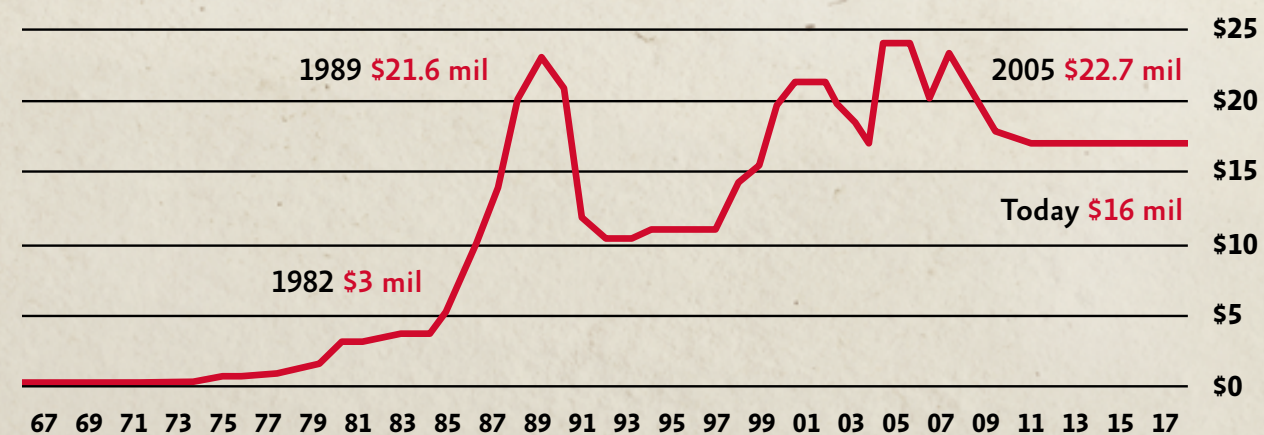
The Council's 50 years of support and investment in New Jersey's artists, arts organizations, projects and partnerships continue to positively and profoundly impact New Jersey life.



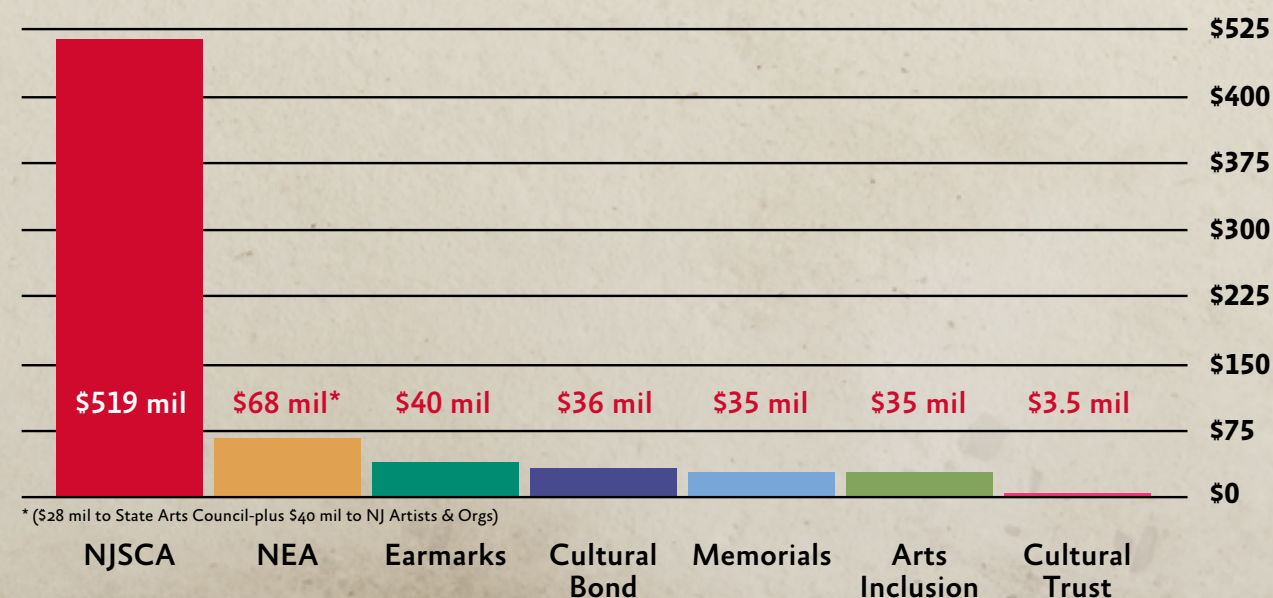
A Look Back

The Dollars

New Jersey State Council On The Arts Annual Budget Since 1966 (In Millions)



Public Arts Spending 1966 - 2016

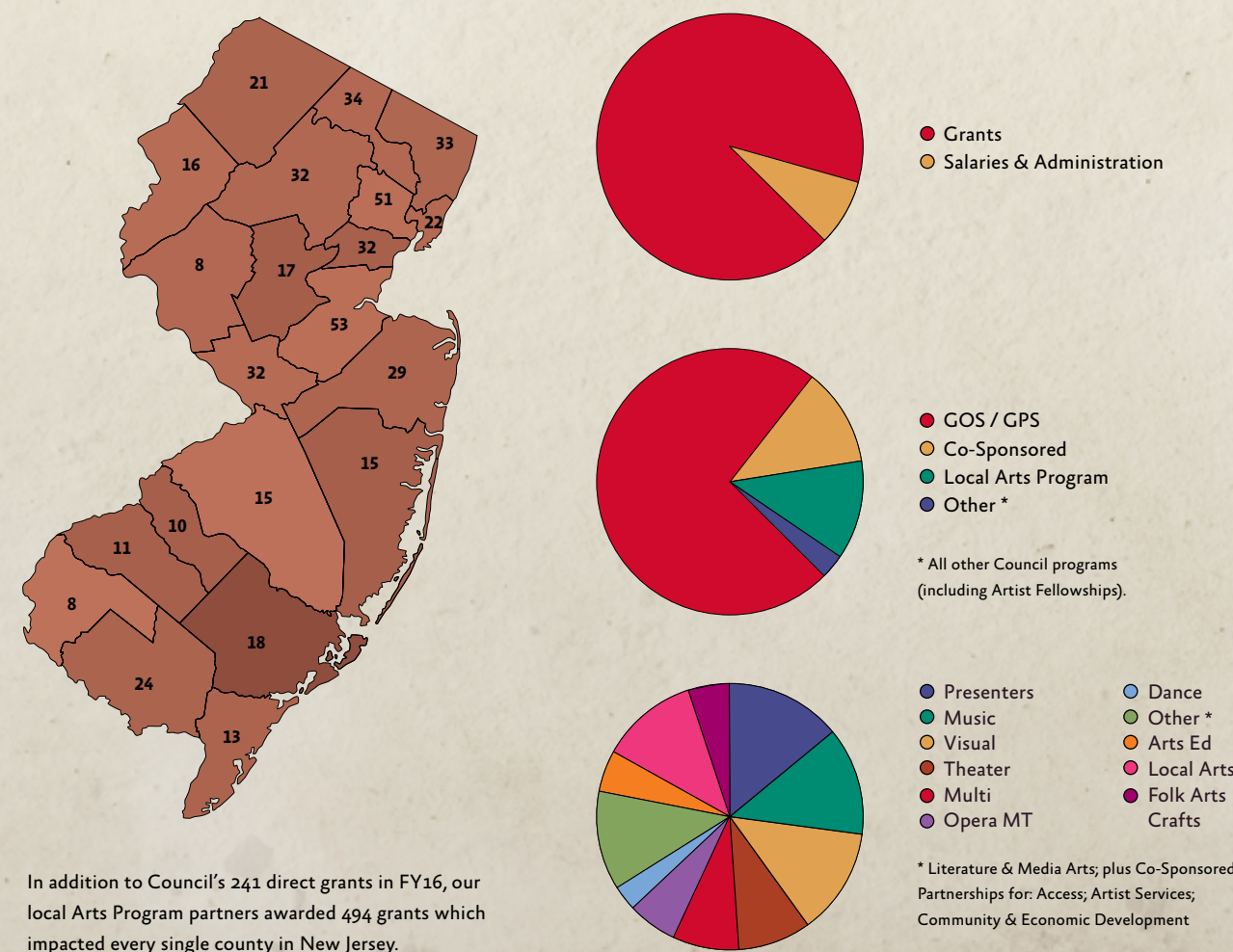


FY16 In Review

Direct Grants

FY16 Disbursements & Spending

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts is a division of the NJ Department of State. It receives funding in direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. In FY16, the Council awarded 241 grants to artists and organizations totalling \$15,784,743 and covering a wide range of artistic disciplines. Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of all Council grants were General Operating, Program or Project Support (GOS/GPS/APS), followed by Co-sponsored projects and the Local Arts Program. In FY16, the Arts Council received \$17.25 million in revenue- most of which was distributed in grants.

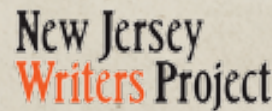
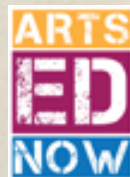


FY16 In Review

Co-Sponsored Projects

Co-Sponsored Projects

One vitally important way that the Council achieves its goals is through a battery of co-sponsored projects in priority areas. By partnering with organizations that share the same vision, the Council extends its reach and ensures the most effective and efficient use of public funds. Some of the current proects appear below.



Thank You to Our Partners Who Make These Projects and More Possible

ArtPride New Jersey Foundation
Arts Horizons
Council of New Jersey Grantmakers
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
Montclair Art Museum
Morris Museum

The Newark Museum
New Jersey Arts Education Partnership
New Jersey State Museum
New Jersey Theatre Alliance
Nonprofit Finance Fund
The Noyes Museum of Art
Perkins Center for the Arts

PlanSmart New Jersey
Rutgers University
Stockton University
South Jersey Cultural Alliance
Writers Theatre of New Jersey
Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania

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Kevin M. O'Brien, 2nd Vice Chair
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Mary-Grace Cangemi
Lawrence K. Carlbom
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Marilyn Harkett Dore
Ofelia Garcia
Joyce C. Goore
Carol Ann Herbert
Dolores A. Kirk
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Trudy Rosato Simpson
Lana Gold Walder

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Senator, Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Assemblywoman, Valerie Vainieri Huttle

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Audio and Visual Production



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Irene Wells, Assistant to the Executive Director

Communications

Allison Tratner, Director of Communications
Stephanie Nerbak, Communications Intern

Operations

Angelo Hall, Director of Operations
Patricia Hamilton-Ross, Assistant to the Director of Operations
Nancy Sawasky, Office Manager

Programs & Services

Danielle Bursk, Program Officer - Organizational Support, Arts Education
Tammy R. Herman, Program Officer - Organizational Support
Kim Nguyen, Program Officer - Folk Arts
Paula Stephens, Program Officer - Arts in Communities

Artists' Services

Donald Ehman, Director of Artists' Services, Access Coordinator, Arts Inclusion
Eileen Peterson, Support Specialist - Artists' Services, Arts Education
Amanda Heidel, Artists' Services Intern

On-Site Partnership Staff

Michelle Baxter-Schaffer, Artists in Education Administrator
Kay Potucek, New Jersey Poetry Out Loud Program Coordinator

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