

Delaware Division of the Arts Announces Recipients of the 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts

Dover, Del. (September 3, 2019) – The Delaware Division of the Arts is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts, which pay tribute to distinguished individuals and organizations that have had a profound and lasting impact on the state's artistic and cultural life. The 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts were coordinated by the Delaware Division of the Arts in conjunction with the Delaware State Arts Council and the Office of Governor John C. Carney. Award recipients were selected from a pool of candidates solicited during an extensive nominating process.

To celebrate the recipients' achievements, an award ceremony will be held on Monday, October 28, at 4:00 p.m. at the Rollins Center at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. As part of the celebration, the Music School of Delaware's Suzuki Academy Honors Program Student String Quartet will perform. A reception with light fare will be held prior to the ceremony from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The reception and award ceremony are free and open to the public. The Governor's Awards for the Arts reception and ceremony immediately follow the [2019 Delaware Arts Summit](#).

"We are honored to host this event, recognizing exemplary service to the arts in Delaware," said Paul Weagraff, Director of the Delaware Division of the Arts. "Delaware owes so much to these individuals and organizations for the tireless work they do to enhance Delaware's schools, communities, and quality of life."

2019 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS RECIPIENTS

✘ **ARTS ADMINISTRATION:** Individual who has shown sustained, impactful, and visionary executive leadership of an arts organization.

Raye Jones Avery

Raye Jones Avery has been a leader in the arts and education sectors in Delaware for more than 30 years. Since 1991, she has been the Executive Director of the Christina Cultural Arts Center in Wilmington where classes are offered to foster creativity and artistic achievement. During her tenure, she has successfully made the arts accessible to urban children and youth through innovative and affordable programming. Raye has also been a partner in Wilmington's Creative District, focusing on creative production and consumption of the arts by diverse audiences.

✘ **ARTS EDUCATION:** Individual or organization that has made significant contributions through leadership and creativity to advance arts education in Delaware's schools and communities, or in community organizations.

Charles J. Conway

Charlie Conway joined the staff of the Delaware Theatre Company (DTC) in 1983 and became a part of the Theatre's Education Department in 1991 when he was named the first Director of Education. He continued as the founder and director of the DTC's award-winning Department of Education and Community Engagement. Formerly a teacher, Charlie combined a background in Psychology, Education, and Child Development with his experience as an actor. He provided drama instruction to children, adults, and special-needs populations for many DTC programs, as well as numerous schools and institutions

throughout the state.

ARTS PATRON: Individual, foundation or entity that, over time, has sustained and enhanced the arts in their community or the state of Delaware through contributions of their time, effort, or financial resources.

✘ **Arts Patron, Corporate:**

M&T Bank

M&T Bank continues Wilmington Trust's tradition of sustaining and developing the local community and region with a goal of creating an attractive, vibrant, and culturally superior place for residents and for employers to draw workers. They are one of a small number of companies with true statewide reach and interest with ongoing support of arts organizations in all three Delaware counties. In addition to financial support, the company encourages its employees to volunteer for area non-profits, both as direct service volunteers, and as members serving on boards and committees.

✘ **Arts Patron, Individual:**

Carla Markell

For the last two decades, Carla Markell has led by example, showing Delawareans that we all have a vital role to play as patrons of the arts. Consistently, she has made the public case that supporting the arts is an economic responsibility for the benefit of the local community and the state as a whole. As a patron, Carla used her public role as Delaware's First Lady to underscore the impact of the arts as a jobs creator, community-wellness asset, and a unique tool to impact underserved populations. Carla has participated in numerous small and large fundraising opportunities for the arts. Her commitment and passion has led her to promote and lead major fundraising events and to just as easily work behind the scenes.

☒ **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Individual or organization that works to create or strengthen interactive arts participation among diverse community members while increasing the public awareness about the role of the arts in community life.

Art Therapy Express

Founded in 2003 by Lisa Bartoli, Art Therapy Express is an organization that provides innovative therapeutic arts programming throughout the state of Delaware. They serve over 1,000 children and adults with mild to severe intellectual, physical, emotional, and communication disabilities within special education school programs, hospitals, and nonprofit organizations. Their vision has been to provide a safe and empowering space for all people to express themselves, connect with peers, and feel joy through the power and creativity of art. This is often accomplished through the use of adaptive technology with custom-designed tools, art media, and equipment.

☒ **PEGGY AMSTERDAM AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT:** This award was created in honor of Peggy Amsterdam, Director of the Delaware Division of the Arts from 1993-2000. Before her untimely passing in 2009, Peggy was a pillar in the arts world – recognized regionally and nationally for her leadership and vision, for expanding people’s access to the arts, and for supporting excellence in artistic expression.

Debora Hansen

Deb Hansen has worked tirelessly to advance the arts in Delaware and in our schools through her work at the Delaware Department of Education, as an art teacher, within arts education organizations, arts advocacy groups, and by contributing her leadership to national arts advocacy and education causes. Since 2000, Deb has been the Education Associate for the Delaware Department of Education responsible for the coordination of arts education, programs for gifted

and talented students, and the implementation of the Professional Learning Standards. Energetic and enthusiastic, Deb has diligently pledged that all K-12 students should receive arts education in Delaware.

Thank You to the Awards Selection Panel: Diane Albanese, Milton; Jennifer Gunther, Newark; Peter Harrigan, Rehoboth Beach; John Moore, Sr., Wilmington; and Delaware State Arts Council Chair, J. Mack Wathen, Hockessin.

✘ **For the Recipients:** Each of the recipients of the Governor's Awards for the Arts will receive a Colonial Blue Filigree Caldera created by Delaware artist Marcie Tauber. In nature, the inward collapse of a volcano forms a large cauldron-like depression which is known as a caldera. In Tauber's studio, patterned glass is slumped (or collapsed) into successively deeper molds in a hot kiln. The result is a large, cauldron-like bowl, which she calls a "Caldera."

History of the Governor's Awards for the Arts: Governor Russell W. Peterson began the tradition of honoring Delaware artists and art supporters in 1970. Since then, 48 individuals and organizations have received a Governor's Award for their contributions to the arts in Delaware. The Governor's Awards for the Arts are now typically held once during each four-year term of the current Governor.

For a list of the previous award winners, visit:
<https://arts.delaware.gov/governors-awards/>

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The [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a branch of the Delaware Department of State, is dedicated to cultivating and supporting the arts to enhance the quality of life for all Delawareans. Together with its advisory body, the Delaware State Arts Council, the Division administers grants and programs that support arts programming, educate the public, increase awareness of the arts, and integrate the arts into all facets of Delaware life. For more information about the Delaware Division of the Arts, visit arts.delaware.gov or call 302-577-8278.