

**WHEATONARTS RECEIVES PNC ARTS ALIVE GRANT  
PRESENTS “WHEATON WIDE OPEN WEEKENDS” JULY THROUGH DECEMBER**

**MILLVILLE, NJ** – Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center was recently awarded a PNC Arts Alive grant by The PNC Foundation. Only 22 arts organizations in the Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey region were selected for bold thinking around increasing arts access and engagement.

Through this grant WheatonArts will present “Wheaton Wide Open Weekends,” a series of selected three-day weekends from July through December with free admission for all visitors.

Weekend programming include Artists Market and Sidewalk Sale in July, Antique Fire Apparatus and Muster in August, Hallo-Wheaton in October, and holiday programming in November and December.

“Through PNC Arts Alive, we continue to help invigorate local arts organizations while bringing new and exciting programs to our community,” said Paula Fryland, PNC regional president for Philadelphia-Southern New Jersey. “The creativity and collaboration demonstrated by the local arts community is evident in the programs that will be introduced, while enabling new visitors and residents alike to experience a diverse range of exhibits and performances.”

Susan Gogan, WheatonArts Executive Director said, “The PNC Arts Alive brand has become a staple in our community and the success of our past Wheaton Wide Open initiatives have had a major impact on WheatonArts’ strategic planning process. We are honored and grateful to be able to offer a new series of Wheaton Wide Open Weekends, and we look forward to advancing our mission by providing meaningful arts experiences to all artists and audiences in our region and beyond. The investment that PNC continues to make in WheatonArts will enable us to make our programs more accessible, while generating new, younger and more diverse audiences. The PNC Arts Alive initiative exemplifies PNC’s leadership role in our region as an innovative supporter of the arts. We are very grateful for their partnership.”

PNC Arts Alive is a multi-year grant initiative of the PNC Foundation that challenges visual and performing arts organizations to put forth their best, most original thinking in expanding audience participation and engagement. Since its introduction, PNC Arts Alive has provided a total of \$7 million to support more than 160 arts programs and 80 organizations to increase access to the arts and culture in Philadelphia-Southern New Jersey.

For more information about PNC Arts Alive and the grant recipients visit [www.pncartsalive.com](http://www.pncartsalive.com).

For more information about WheatonArts’ ongoing programs and PNC Arts Alive activities, call 856-825-6800 or 800-998-4552, or visit [wheatonarts.org](http://wheatonarts.org). WheatonArts is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5p.m., through January 3, 2016. Open July 4 and Labor Day. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

WheatonArts strives to make exhibits, events and programs accessible to all visitors. A two week notice is required for additional needs. Patrons with hearing and speech disabilities may contact WheatonArts through the New Jersey Relay Service (TRS) 800-852-7899 or by dialing 711.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, New Jersey Cultural Trust and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. WheatonArts receives general operating support from the New Jersey Historical Commission, Division of Cultural Affairs in the New Jersey Department of State. Additional funding provided through a grant from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.

###

---

*About WheatonArts*

With a history spanning four decades, WheatonArts has earned regional, national and international recognition for its unique collections and programs. The Museum of American Glass, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, houses one of the most comprehensive collections of American glass in the country...from the first glass bottles made in America to celebrated works by Dale Chihuly and other contemporary artists who work in glass. Visitors experience the art of glassmaking, ceramics and flameworking in the Artists Studios. From April through December the Museum of American Glass and The Gallery of Fine Craft present special exhibitions. WheatonArts also offers traditional and multi-cultural programs, classes, workshops, performances and weekend festivals. The award-winning Museum Stores offer traditional and contemporary art and craft in all mediums.