

## **WHEATONARTS NOMINATED FOR JERSEYARTS.COM'S PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**

**MILLVILLE, NJ (January 14, 2017)** – Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center is proud to announce its nomination for Favorite Art Museum and Favorite Adult Art Class, in the ninth annual People's Choice Awards, hosted by JerseyArts.com. The awards program is run by Discover Jersey Arts, as a tribute to the work of New Jersey's vital, vibrant and diverse arts organizations. With the ballots now prepped, it's time for arts lovers across the state to vote for their favorite local arts organizations.

"All of us at WheatonArts are proud to be acknowledged by Discover Jersey Arts for our efforts to offer unique and authentic creative experiences for artists and audiences alike," says WheatonArts Executive Director Susan Gogan. "Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center strives to provide exhibitions, special events, adult workshops and children's classes in a manner that fosters creative expression for everyone, regardless of experience."

Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center and the other contenders in the 2017 People's Choice Awards were nominated by their peers through the Jersey Arts Marketers network, which is made up of hundreds of arts groups across the state. A record-breaking number of nomination ballots were cast and now 11 arts districts and nearly 100 organizations will compete in 16 categories, including favorite performing arts center, dance company, art gallery, choral group and more.

"It's great to see so many nominations come in from organizations all over the state," says Nick Paleologos, Executive Director of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, "allowing groups large and small to be acknowledged for the wonderful work that they are doing."

Adam Perle, President and CEO of ArtPride New Jersey, which cosponsors the Discover Jersey Arts program with the Council, agreed, saying: "The quality of art we have in New Jersey is increasing thanks to our rich and vibrant cultural community working together to build each other up."

Public voting began on January 5<sup>th</sup> at noon and runs through February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Winners will be announced and honored in March at the New Jersey Conference on Tourism in Atlantic City. For a full list of nominees and categories, please visit [www.JerseyArts.com/Vote](http://www.JerseyArts.com/Vote).

### **About Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center**

Each year more than 60,000 people visit Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center; offsite events and programs reach over 75,000 more. The American for the Arts, Arts and Economic Prosperity Calculator estimates total economic impact to be over \$3.5 million annually, which includes tourism and its effects on the local region and the state overall.

WheatonArts is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., April to December. Closed Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Open Tuesday, July 4th

For more information about WheatonArts, call 1-800-998-4552 or 856-825-6800, or visit online at [wheatonarts.org](http://wheatonarts.org). Please submit requests for press images to [wheatonartsnews@wheatonarts.org](mailto:wheatonartsnews@wheatonarts.org).

WheatonArts strives to ensure the accessibility of its exhibitions, events and programs to all persons with disabilities. Provide two weeks notice 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, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey Cultural Trust. WheatonArts receives general operating support from the New Jersey Historical Commission, Division of Cultural Affairs in the New Jersey Department of State, and is supported in part by the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.

### **About JerseyArts.com and Discover 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 events calendar and arts directory; feature stories on Culture Vultures Arts Weekly and the Jersey Arts Podcast; 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.

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