



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ArtPride New Jersey's Board of Directors is Making Changes

Burlington, NJ – July, 17 2023 - ArtPride New Jersey is thrilled to announce the successful nomination of new officers of their Board of Directors, the appointment of three new trustees, and bids a fond farewell to their departing board members.

As the leading advocate for the arts sector in the Garden State, ArtPride New Jersey's new Board leadership team will deeply impact the growth of the sector with the addition of Alexander R. Diaz, Carlos Fernandez, and Lynne Toye led by the new Board Chair Paul McRae.

BIOS below.

On becoming the new Board Chair of the ArtPride NJ Board of Trustees, McRae says, "After being involved in many different aspects of ArtPride NJ, I felt well suited to step up into this leadership position. Especially at a time when ArtPride is in the middle of a strategic planning process. I hope to bring continuity to the leadership as it takes on new challenges because the resources and advocacy that ArtPride NJ Foundation provides are the key to the public's awareness of the art sector's role in community, economic, and cultural development in New Jersey."

As ArtPride NJ welcomes its new trustees, ArtPride NJ expresses gratitude and bids farewell to the following departing members, who have made indelible contributions during their tenure:

- Susan Gogan, Executive Director/CEO - Wheaton Arts & Cultural Center
- Sharon Harrington
- John McEwen, Executive Director – New Jersey Theatre Alliance
- John Schreiber, President & CEO – New Jersey Performing Arts Center
- Steve Steiner, Executive Director – Sunflight Theatre
- Alan Willoughby – Artist

Adam Perle, CEO and President of ArtPride New Jersey, stated, "ArtPride is truly grateful for the nearly 100 years of total service by the six Trustees who rotated off the Board. They each have left a long-lasting legacy on the organization, and New Jersey's arts and culture community. As the organization evolves for the future we are equally thankful for the addition of three outstanding new trustees who will each blaze their own path to substantial impact."

In addition to the new board members, ArtPride New Jersey is proud to introduce the new officers of the board:

- Paul McRae as Board Chair | Assistant Director; New Jersey Ballet
- Linda Harrison as Vice Chair | Director & CEO; Newark Museum of Art



- Isha Vyas as Vice Chair | Division Head; Arts & History Program Services
County of Middlesex, Office of Culture & Heritage
- Gabriel van Aalst as Secretary | President & CEO; New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
- Mike Stotts as Treasurer | Managing Director; Paper Mill Playhouse

A full list of ArtPride New Jersey Board of Trustees can be found [here](#).

Paul McRae (CHAIR)

Paul H. McRae is the Assistant Director of New Jersey Ballet. He received training at the San Francisco School of Ballet, the New Jersey School of Ballet, and the School of American Ballet. Mr. McRae joined New Jersey Ballet as an apprentice at the age of 16 and has performed a wide range of solo and principal roles in the Company's extensive repertory. He currently serves as a co-founder and former President of Dance/New Jersey and is a board member of Art Pride New Jersey and New Jersey Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. Mr. McRae's passion for the arts extends to his role as Co-Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee at Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey.

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NEW TRUSTEES

Alexander R. Diaz | Executive Director | bergenPAC

Alexander Diaz is a multi-talented artist and executive who has made a significant impact in the world of performing arts in New Jersey, New York City, Philadelphia, Miami, and abroad. As the Executive Director at bergenPAC, he continues to inspire young artists and bring world-class entertainment to northern New Jersey. Diaz's unwavering commitment to the arts and his dedication to educating young artists have made him a beloved figure in the performing arts community.

Carlos Fernandez, Ph.D. | Director | Center for Latino Arts & Culture at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey

With a doctorate in folklore from Indiana University and a background in music composition and classical guitar, Carlos Fernandez is an accomplished musician and scholar. Fernandez's research focuses on popular religious devotions and traditional music of Central America and the Caribbean. His expertise and experience contribute significantly to the arts and culture community.

Lynne Toye | Executive Director | NJ Arts & Culture Renewal Fund at Princeton Area Community Foundation,

Lynne Toye has been supporting the arts and culture community in New Jersey for nearly 30 years. Her visionary leadership and commitment to cultural equity have had a profound impact.



Toye is involved with various organizations, including Cool Culture and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, further promoting access to arts experiences and strengthening the sector.

For a full list of ArtPride New Jersey Board of Trustees can be found [here](#).

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About the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation

The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes the value of the arts to New Jersey's quality of life, education, and economic vitality through research and a variety of programs and services. For more information about ArtPride, visit ArtPrideNJ.org.

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