

Report to the Community 2012



NJPAC

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



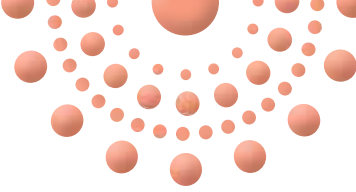
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The incorporation of circular dots in the design of the *Report to the Community* is based on an architectural element in Prudential Hall designed by Barton Myers. The circular patterns of wooden knobs along the fronts of the tiers in Prudential Hall reflect and diffuse high-frequency sound waves and are part of an overall acoustical design created to achieve clarity while preserving the visceral excitement of a live performance.

Source: *New Stage for a City*
Architect: Barton Myers Associates
Text: Michael Webb

Cover Photo: Performance of *A Good Night for Ghosts*, the world premiere musical presented by NJPAC as part of the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival*. Photo by Dan Hedden



A MESSAGE FROM JOHN SCHREIBER, PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear Friends:

This year, the eyes of America were fixed on the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. And we were more than ready for our close-up.

One of the many highlights of 2012 was the selection of NJPAC as the home for the top-rated NBC-TV summer series *America's Got Talent*. A production team of several hundred from California and the tri-state area converged on the Arts Center to transform Prudential Hall into one of the largest, and certainly most elegant, television studios. During the course of eighteen live broadcasts, tens of millions of viewers across the nation got a great glimpse of the Arts Center and Newark each week. And some 40,000 people came to be in the audience, many visiting NJPAC for the very first time.

I've joked that only at NJPAC could you see talking dogs and Yo-Yo Ma. But this year marked a purposeful expansion of programming booked and selected specifically to appeal to everyone's entertainment and cultural tastes. A big thank you to NJPAC Executive Producer and Vice President

David Rodriguez and his programming team for their creativity and tireless efforts to bring NJPAC audiences the widest variety of great performances.

It has been a busy time for all of us here at NJPAC. Along with the TV series, we hosted two major festivals—the triumphant return of the *Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival* and the inauguration of the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival*. We premiered a brand new children's musical by multi-million best-selling author **Mary Pope Osborne** about a young Louis Armstrong. A brand new, highly-rated restaurant, NICO Kitchen + Bar, opened on the premises. The Women's Association of NJPAC reinvented the annual *Spotlight Gala* to huge acclaim. Our annual Summer Musical Production (this year it was *Smokey Joe's Café*) went on the road for the first time, thanks to our friends at Montclair State University. And we began, in earnest, some impactful free public affairs programming that reinforced the mission for NJPAC to be a place for ideas and dialogue, in addition to music and dance.

All of these highlights and more are profiled in the ensuing pages. We hope you will enjoy reading about them and, for many of you, reliving some magical NJPAC moments.

Now, with nearly a year and a half under my belt, I am more grateful than ever to have the privilege of leading NJPAC and an extraordinarily committed team of managers, staff, and volunteers. The passion and commitment to excellence here is unlike anything I have ever experienced. It is a daily inspiration.

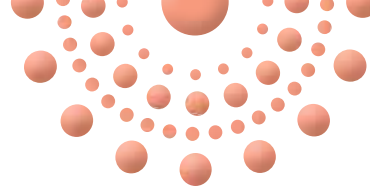
None of this, of course, would be possible without the estimable contributions of our volunteer leaders—NJPAC's Board of Directors, Women's Association Trustees, and Council of Trustees—whose generosity is boundless. To each of them, and to every donor, member, ticket buyer, and friend of NJPAC, please know that our commitment to you is to work each day to make you as proud of your affiliation with the Arts Center as we are to work here.

Enjoy this *Report*. We hope to see you often in the new year.

All good wishes.

Best regards,

John Schreiber



A MESSAGE FROM WILLIAM J. MARINO, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



To NJPAC Friends and Supporters:

Welcome to the latest edition of NJPAC's annual *Report to the Community*. As you review the following pages, I hope you will be as proud as I am about the many accomplishments at the Arts Center during this past calendar year.

Under the leadership of **John Schreiber** and an uncommonly dedicated staff, NJPAC made its mark this year both locally and nationally. Playing host to a hugely popular national television show broadcasting live from Prudential Hall was exciting in and of itself. The fact that it portrayed to the country positive images of Newark and the nation's most glamorous theater (as critic Clive Barnes labeled NJPAC early on) was incredibly affirming to all of us who hold the city and NJPAC in our hearts.

You will notice that the activity level at the Arts Center has ramped up considerably. And that is by design. NJPAC was built to be the most engaging of community assets. We believe quite strongly that in these still all-too-tough economic times, the Arts Center must deliver more and more on its mission to be an oasis—a place to visit, bask, and be transformed, even if just for a few hours.

The Board of Directors has encouraged management in its direction to program broadly, identify new audiences, increase free programming (both entertainment and public affairs), and be entrepreneurial in its efforts to attract large scale performance and event rentals. If you have been a longtime friend of NJPAC, you know that ticket sales account for only part of the Arts Center's revenue. The rest must come through philanthropy, rentals, and ancillary income (parking, restaurant, commission, education fees, etc.) We are confident that we have planned strategically and effectively for the ongoing, long-term success of NJPAC.

In the end, this all means that there will be much more for you to enjoy at the Arts Center. And we hope you will avail yourself of the rich variety of programming we have in store in the months ahead. We also hope you will want to become even more engaged with NJPAC. If you generally visit as a couple, think about bringing some friends along next time you purchase tickets. If you already are a member, we hope you'll consider moving up to a higher level of generosity. And if you have a milestone event upcoming for your family or at work, there's no better place to celebrate than at NJPAC. We guarantee a wonderful experience.

As always, my special thanks go to my colleagues on the NJPAC Board of Directors, along with the Trustees of the Women's Association of NJPAC and our Council of Trustees. The example of your leadership never fails to make my own affiliation with the Arts Center even more rewarding. Similar sentiments go out to our indefatigable staff and magnificent corps of volunteers. I am frequently told how welcome people feel when they come to NJPAC. That is due entirely to this warm and wonderful group of people.

Here's to another great year at our great Arts Center. Many thanks for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

William J. Marino

Season Highlights



America's Got Talent judges Howard Stern, Sharon Osbourne, and Howie Mandel onstage in Prudential Hall

“It was really beautiful. You pull in...all underground parking. You saw the theater on TV. It's beautiful. The dressing rooms...everything was first class. They have a first class restaurant in the place. It is really nice. The people who went there were, like, wow, we never would have considered going here before, but now...”

—*America's Got Talent* judge Howard Stern
to Lisa Lampanelli on his Sirius/XM radio show

NJPAC'S GOT TALENT...LOTS OF IT



Top left: A marching band welcomes America to the first live broadcast of *America's Got Talent* from NJPAC in Newark, New Jersey

Top right: *America's Got Talent* host Nick Cannon on stage in Prudential Hall

Left: Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker and New Jersey Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno flank *America's Got Talent* judge Howard Stern on the opening night red carpet

Acrobatic dogs. Birds with astonishing sense of direction. Human cannonballs. And **Howard Stern**...

Just another run-of-the-mill summer for the number one-rated NBC-TV series, *America's Got Talent*. What made it special *this* summer, at least in our eyes, was the fact that the producers chose NJPAC as the show's home for eighteen live broadcasts from July through September.

It was beyond exciting to see the very recognizable Prudential Hall staring back at us from our television screens twice-a-week, with frequent replays on the many channels in the NBC family. But, you should have seen what went on behind the scenes.

Host **Nick Cannon** and judges **Howard Stern**, **Sharon Osbourne** and **Howie Mandel** roamed backstage and taped segments in the reconfigured artist lounge which was transformed into

the Orville Redenbacher and Snapple lounges that were featured prominently in each week's show. And some of today's top pop artists made special appearances on the results shows including number one hitmakers **Justin Bieber**, **Carly Rae Jepsen**, **Green Day**, the casts of Broadway's *Once* and *Bring It On*, and many more.

The folks from Hollywood rolled into NJPAC in early June after a lengthy courtship by NJPAC senior management, our Events and Operations staffs, New Jersey's Lieutenant Governor and *ex officio* NJPAC Board member **Kim Guadagno**, and a host of City and State agencies. Originally, the producers commented that they didn't see Prudential Hall working as the venue for the show because it was "too beautiful."

Happily, they changed their minds when they learned more about the dedication and professionalism of the NJPAC staff and the economic advantage of doing the show on this side of the Hudson.

The result was some \$87 million in economic impact for Newark and Northern New Jersey, increased work

hours for many of NJPAC's part-time ushers and stage technicians, and a brand new appreciation of the Arts Center and Newark for the tens of millions of viewers who tuned in each week from across the country.

Some forty thousand people came to see the live shows in Prudential Hall (with an additional twenty thousand on a waiting list by summer's end). Lines began forming outside of the Arts Center early each broadcast day (and at least once in the case of a special guest appearance by pop superstar Bieber, the night before). Remarkably, we estimate that fully half of those who attended were visiting NJPAC for their first time.

"When *America's Got Talent* came east, we needed a state-of-the-art facility that could do it all," said Executive Producer, **Ken Warwick**. "NJPAC stood alone—a gorgeous theater, a great staff, and cost efficiencies that couldn't be beat."

We had a blast having Nick, Howard, Howie and Sharon here, along with their wonderfully wacky parade of future "stars." Will they come back next summer? As they say in TV-land, stay tuned... 🍷

READY FOR OUR CLOSE-UP



(l-r) Paul Simon, Renée Fleming, New Edition

America's Got Talent wasn't the only opportunity for NJPAC to be featured in the nation's living rooms this year. A number of other "small screen" appearances included a live segment from Prudential Hall as part of the NAACP Image Awards (NBC-TV). The evening's honoree, **Cathy**

Hughes, founder and chairwoman of Radio One, called NJPAC "the most beautiful performing arts center I've ever seen."

Additionally, interview segments featuring **Renée Fleming** and **Paul Simon** were taped at NJPAC, airing on HBO and PBS respectively. A huge

media presence attended the sold out **New Edition** concert (featuring **Bobby Brown**) in February coming as it did the day after **Whitney Houston's** funeral. Excerpts from the concert were featured on *Today*, *Access Hollywood*, *Extra*, and other programs. ●

CONVERSATIONS AT NJPAC



Steve Aduabato and the Honorable Chris Christie

In late December, the Chase Room was transformed into a television studio for a ten-part series, *Conversations at NJPAC*. A partnership between Caucus Educational Corporation, NJPAC, WNET, NJTV, *The Star-Ledger* and nj.com, the programs, hosted by Emmy Award-winning journalist **Steve Aduabato, Jr.**, began airing on WNET and NJTV in January.

The series features an in-depth two part interview with **Governor Chris Christie** who speaks in depth about Hurricane Sandy, its aftermath, and the impact it had on him personally. The Governor also shares personal stories with his characteristic no-holds-barred humor. Others featured in the series

include former Governors **Thomas H. Kean** and **Jim Florio**; poet/activist **Amiri Baraka**; singer **Gloria Gaynor**; cabaret artists **Barbara Fasano** and **Eric Comstock**; musicians **Geri Allen**, **Rufus Reed** and **Bill Charlap**; **John Strangfeld**, Chairman, CEO, and President of Prudential Financial; WBGO President and CEO **Cephas Bowles**; and NJPAC President and CEO **John Schreiber**, among others.

"A year and a half ago, **Neal Shapiro**, CEO of WNET (which operates NJTV) and I were talking," Aduabato told nj.com. "We agreed that the key player in public television should partner with the key cultural centers and non-profits



Steve Aduabato, the Honorable Thomas H. Kean, and John Schreiber

in the state. I started talking with John Schreiber at NJPAC and he agreed to be part of something that would allow us to show off the top minds and talents in the state and to make NJPAC the home for the show."

"We were delighted to welcome Steve and Caucus Educational Corporation (which also celebrated its 25th anniversary on the evening of the tapings)," said Schreiber. "This kind of public affairs programming is a perfect fit for the Arts Center. Our ongoing plans include doing more of these community-informed programs so NJPAC can be a place for the exchange of ideas as well as great performances." ●



A GREAT READ

Author **Mary Pope Osborne** can, without hesitation, be called a rock star among the children’s literature set. With millions of books sold and a breathtaking forty-nine titles in her *New York Times* number one best-selling *Magic Tree House* series, she has introduced a generation of young readers to great moments in history across an engaging spectrum of cultures.

This year, as a result of her friendship with NJPAC President and CEO **John Schreiber**, the author took a keen interest in Newark. Alarmed by statistics showing that less than 40% of Newark third-graders read at grade-level, she and her husband, playwright/musician **Will Osborne**, resolved to help ignite a love for reading for the City’s youngsters.

In an extraordinary gesture, Mary donated a full set of the first 28 books in her *Magic Tree House* series to every third-grader in Newark’s public and charter schools. Mary and Will personally delivered the books to six schools on a brisk spring morning where they were greeted with great affection and enthusiasm. All in all, over 120,000 books were donated to 4,300 students.

“We know that when kids are reading

“It’s vitally important to make every effort to teach children to read. But I believe we must go beyond the reading mechanics and help children acquire a love of reading. To do that, we have to give them books. By not providing children with books, we are suppressing not only their dreams, their hope for the future, but their inherent dignity.”

—Mary Pope Osborne

with comprehension by the third grade that we are putting them on a life trajectory that will help to ensure they can access the full range of life’s options as adults. On behalf of Newark Public Schools, we are extremely grateful to John and NJPAC and to Mary and Will for their generous gift, and generosity of spirit, to the students and teachers of Newark,” said **Cami Anderson**, Superintendent of Newark Public Schools.

In the fall, the students were treated to a world premiere musical production based on one of Mary’s books. *A Night in New Orleans*, inspired by *Magic Tree House #42: A Good Night for Ghosts*, traces the adventures of lead characters Jack and Annie as they travel back to 1915 to meet a young Louis Armstrong and set him on the path to becoming one of the kings of jazz.

Created by Will Osborne in collaboration with **Murray Horwitz** (co-creator of the Broadway hit *Ain’t Misbehavin’*) and legendary New Orleans composer **Allen Toussaint**, the musical toured Newark schools and played two public performances in NJPAC’s Victoria Theater as part of the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival* (read more about the Festival on page 21.)

The musical featured a cast of ten, along with a seven-member band, all students in NJPAC’s arts training programs. **Marcus Beckett**, 16, played the role of young Louis Armstrong. “It is a great opportunity for me to learn about him and jazz,” he told *The Star-Ledger*.

“I felt like I was going on the adventures with them,” said 9-year old Adena after attending one of the in-school performances. ●



Big Daddy Kane at *Sounds of the City*

OUT-OF-DOORS, OUTTA-SIGHT!

When *America's Got Talent* was heating up the scene indoors at NJPAC this summer, things were blazing outside as well.

NJPAC's free outdoor concert series, *Sounds of the City*, stepped up its game and attracted record numbers to Theater Square, the Arts Center's outdoor public plaza, by programming big-name attractions, along with some of the metropolitan area's most popular DJs.

"We wanted to have the programming outside offer a sneak peak at the kind of diverse and popular performances we have on tap for the 2012–2013 season," said **David Rodriguez**, NJPAC's Executive Producer and Vice President. "I think we really tapped into something special because the crowds swelled as the summer went on. We were delighted to offer our audiences top-level talent while keeping the vibe that has for many years made *Sounds of the City* the summer's hottest free celebration of

"I don't know who is responsible for the *Sounds of the City* summer line-up this year, but it is the best free concert series that I have ever seen in New Jersey. EVER!!! I don't have to go to New York City for their free concerts. Whoever put this together, all I can say is THANK YOU! YOU ARE THE BEST!!! All of my friends and I love you so much right now!

—Anton L. Lendor, Esq., Lifetime Newark resident

everything that makes a city great."

Performances by hip hop industry pioneers **Big Daddy Kane** and **Rakim** attracted 4,000 and 6,000 fans, respectively—both new records for the series. Among the summer's other highlights: reggae, Latin music, soul and R&B artists including The Wailers, Judah Tribe, Ray Mantilla Space Station, Larry Harlow and the Latin Legends Band, Bobby Sanabria, Kindred the Family Soul, and Felix Hernandez's *Rhythm Revue Dance Party*.

Added to the mix this summer was a

new free series, *Friday Night Live*, which featured concerts by two legendary artists, Blood, Sweat and Tears and The Family Stone.

Sounds of the City and *Friday Night Live* were sponsored by Chase, Berkeley College, Richmond County Foundation, BD, Verizon Wireless, Remy, Heineken, Newark Downtown District, New Jersey State Council on the Arts and Discover Jersey Arts. WBGO Jazz88.3 FM and TEMPO Networks were media partners for selected concerts. ●

BOARD NEWS



(l-r) New Board members James L. Bildner, Linda A. Willett, Esq., and ex-officio member Elizabeth Mattson. Newly appointed Director Emeriti Dennis Bone; recently retired Director J. Chris Scalet

In June, the NJPAC Board of Directors established a new recognition designation for retiring long-serving Directors. The first Directors *Emeriti* include **Barbara Bell Coleman, Dennis Bone, Albert R. Gamper, Jr., Morris Tanenbaum, and Diana T. Vagelos**. Special recognition was paid to Mrs. Vagelos for her service as a Director, Founding President of the Women's Association of NJPAC, and Chair of the Arts Education Committee. A song, *Diana, We Love You*, was commissioned, written by Broadway veteran

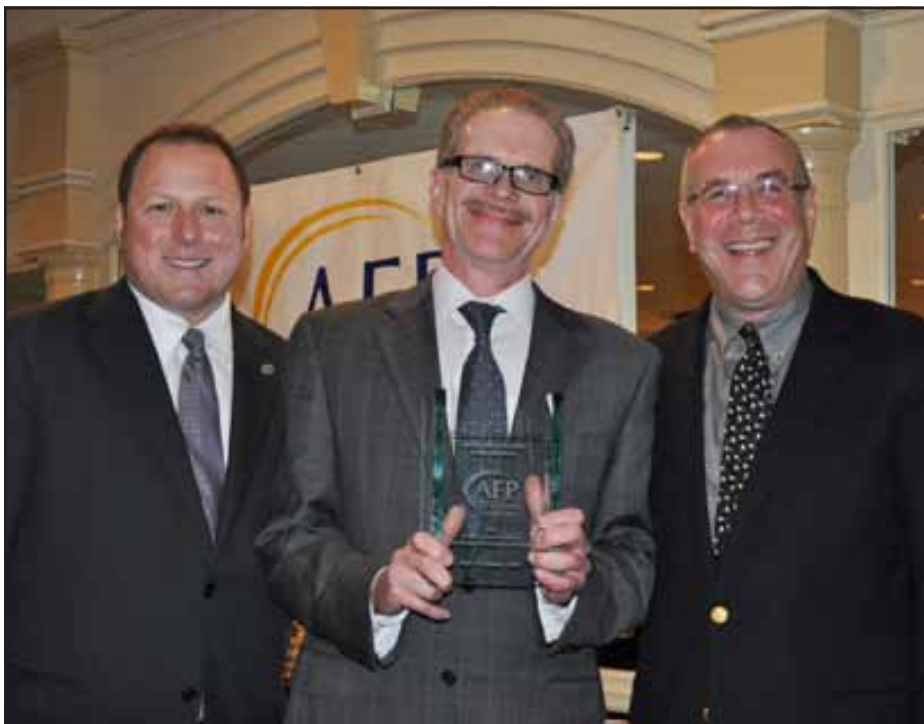
Murray Horwitz (*Ain't Misbehavin'*) and sung at the meeting by jazz vocalist **Melissa Walker**.

NJPAC is pleased to welcome new Director **James L. Bildner**, Senior Research Fellow at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University. Jim is the son of longtime NJPAC Director **Allen Bildner** and **Joan Bildner** who founded the NJPAC Ticket Subsidy Fund (for more on that, see page 14). Also joining the Board is **Linda A. Willett, Esq.**, Senior Vice President,

General Counsel and Secretary. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and, as an *ex-officio* member, **Elizabeth Mattson**, Chair, New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Ms. Mattson is a former elementary school teacher, education consultant, staff member for former U.S. Senator Jon Corzine, and past Executive Director of the Drumthwacket Foundation.

Much gratitude to **Dennis Bone** and **J. Chris Scalet**, both of whom retired from the Board this year after many years or distinguished service. ●

AN AWARDING DEVELOPMENT

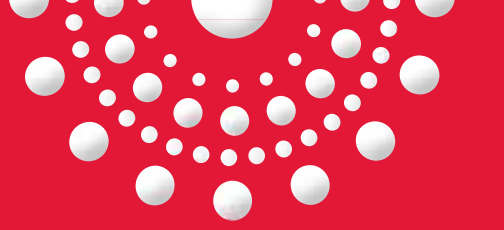


(l-r) Michael J. Baker, President, AFP-NJ, Peter Hansen, NJPAC VP, Development, John Schreiber, NJPAC President and CEO

Peter H. Hansen, New Jersey Performing Arts Center Vice President, Development, was named by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, New Jersey Chapter (AFP-NJ), to receive its 2012 Robert J. Smythe Award as the state's Outstanding Professional Fundraiser. The prestigious award was presented at the association's 31st Annual *Excellence in Philanthropy* celebration.

Hansen, in his second stint with NJPAC, served from 1992 to 2002 in several development leadership capacities, including Vice President. The team raised more than \$187 million to build NJPAC. He also created the Center's annual fund which today accounts for more than \$9.6 million in contributions and grants.

Hansen successfully completed the recent *Campaign for NJPAC*, exceeding the \$180 million goal by \$3 million, despite the severe economic downturn. *The Campaign* established a \$60 million endowment for NJPAC. ●



NICO MAKES ITS DEBUT



nico KITCHEN + BAR

Fine dining has always been a special part of the NJPAC experience. The convenience of parking in one place and enjoying dinner and a show at the same venue is just one of the many added values of a night at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

That experience got even better this year with the debut in February of **NICO Kitchen + Bar**, the new on-site restaurant at NJPAC. Described as having an “Italian Without Borders” concept, NICO opened to rave reviews and has been a popular spot ever since, not only for pre-performance dinner, but also for power lunches, happy hours, post-show visits, and, increasingly, for dining on non-performance nights.

Under the direction of NJPAC Executive Vice President and COO **Bobbie Arbesfeld** and **Ross Richards**, Vice President of Operations and Real Estate, the restaurant received a makeover, going for a sleek, strong and understatedly theatrical style, in

keeping with NJPAC’s overall design. Soaring ceilings, arts & crafts-style touches, and warm gold/brown tones are standout features. The artwork in NICO showcases vividly colored, large-scale photo illustrations of artists who have appeared at NJPAC.

“The homemade squid-ink cavatelli is pure genius—but you’ll devour it long before you’ll intellectualize it.”

—nj.com/Inside Jersey

Under the direction of Executive Chef **Ryan DePersio**, co-owner of the highly acclaimed *Fascino* in Montclair and *Bar Cara* in Bloomfield, NICO features scrumptious dishes that are destined to become classics.

DePersio is a graduate of New York

“There’s a new dining option in Newark with the opening of NICO Kitchen + Bar in the NJPAC building. This is not a ‘since we’re going to the theater, we may as well eat here’ place but a worthwhile destination restaurant to try even if you’re not going to see a show. The food impressed us.”

— “Table Hopping with Rosie”
New Jersey Monthly

Restaurant School and worked in the kitchens of David Bouley (Bouley Bakery, NYC); Bill Telepan (Judson Grill, NYC); Jean-George Vongerichten (Vong, Jean-George, NYC), as well as in France and Italy. He has appeared on *Today* and on The Food Network’s *Chopped*. Chef de Cuisine **Adam Rose** is a graduate of the New York Restaurant School and trained in top kitchens throughout NJ, including North Maple Inn (Basking Ridge); Restaurant Passionné (Montclair); and, most recently, 3-Forty Grill and Bin 14 (Hoboken).

Among the many raves on the popular Yelp! app, this was one of our favorites: “NICO is a GORGEOUS restaurant,” said Kristine S. from Jersey City. “I don’t really know too much about Newark, but this place was a great first introduction to me. Going to a show [at NJPAC] and having a delicious dinner at NICO seems like the perfect date night to me. I’ll have to bug my boyfriend to get us to go back soon!”



WELCOME, DONNA



“I am delighted to enter this new chapter in my career taking leadership for marketing at NJPAC with the goal of translating the vision of great colleagues like **John Schreiber** and **David Rodriguez**. The synergy of marketing coupled with a deeper engagement of multicultural and multigenerational audiences at this world class venue is something I am very excited about. I look forward to welcoming current and new audiences to NJPAC, a beautiful jewel and oasis of arts, culture and entertainment in New Jersey.”

—Donna Walker-Kuhne, NJPAC Vice President, Marketing

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center happily welcomes **Donna Walker-Kuhne** to its senior management team as Vice President, Marketing. Acknowledged as the nation’s “foremost expert on audience diversification” by the Arts & Business Council, Donna is an accomplished arts administrator and adult educator who has devoted her professional career to increasing the accessibility and connection to the arts by the nation’s rapidly growing multicultural population.

Since 1984, Ms. Walker-Kuhne has been President of Walker International Communications Group, through which she conducts seminars and workshops and provides marketing consultation services to arts organizations, performing and visual artists, dance companies, Broadway and off-Broadway productions, and non-profit groups. Her clients have included: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Caribbean Cultural Center, The Apollo Theater, The Sphinx Organization, Sony/BMG Music, WNYC Radio, the President’s Committee on Arts and Humanities, Dance USA, and the Broadway productions of *Stick Fly*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Thurgood*, and *August Wilson’s Radio Golf*. Walker International Communications Group

will maintain operations under new leadership continuing to provide audience development and group sales services to nonprofit and commercial enterprises.

The author of *Invitation to the Party: Building Bridges to Arts, Culture and Community*, published in 2005, Donna has seen the book become a top-selling, invaluable resource for today’s nonprofit arts marketers, producers, and students. Previously, she served stints as Director of Marketing and Audience Development at the New York Shakespeare Festival/ Joseph Papp Public Theater and as Director of Marketing for The Dance Theatre of Harlem.

“This is a huge coup for NJPAC,” said **John Schreiber**, the Arts Center’s

President and CEO. “No one is more respected in the arts community than Donna Walker-Kuhne. She is a great communicator and possesses a deep understanding of how to attract audiences across a widely-diverse spectrum. Donna is a strategic thinker, partnership-builder, and passionate advocate for the arts and entertainment. She is the perfect fit to help us share with the world the multiple missions we pursue at NJPAC.”

Special recognition to **Sandra Bowie**, Vice President, Arts Education and twenty-year veteran **Jeffrey Norman**, Vice President, Public Affairs, who ended their distinguished tenures at NJPAC to pursue other opportunities. ●



Former NJPAC Vice Presidents Sandra Bowie and Jeffrey Norman



Participants in the NJPAC Ticket Subsidy Fund attended a concert by the Soweto Gospel Choir, among a diverse selection of performances

ACCESSIBLE ARTS

Once again this year, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center welcomed community organizations and their constituents to a host of performances under the auspices of the NJPAC Ticket Subsidy Fund. Founded by NJPAC Director **Allen Bildner**, along with his wife, **Joan Bildner**, the Fund makes available deeply discounted tickets to participating organizations. This year, 35 nonprofits from across New Jersey brought nearly 1,700 people to NJPAC with a ticket price of \$6 for some of

the best seats in the house. Among this year's participating organizations included: The North Ward Center, East Orange Police Athletic League, Broadway House for Continuing Care, The ARC of Essex County, Nimbus Dance Works, The Institute of Music For Children, and the Housing Authority of Plainfield, NJ. The audiences enjoyed performances as wide ranging as **Ruben Blades, Lang Lang, Penn & Teller, Soweto Gospel Choir, Herbie Hancock, Rockapella, and Alvin Ailey American**

Dance Theater, among 30 total events.

"We enjoyed immensely the [Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.] Celebration," said **Donna Campos** from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. "We were greatly inspired by the speeches given and songs performed. Thank you for the great seats."

For more information about becoming a donor to the program, please contact **Peter Hansen**, Vice President, Development, at phansen@njpac.org



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

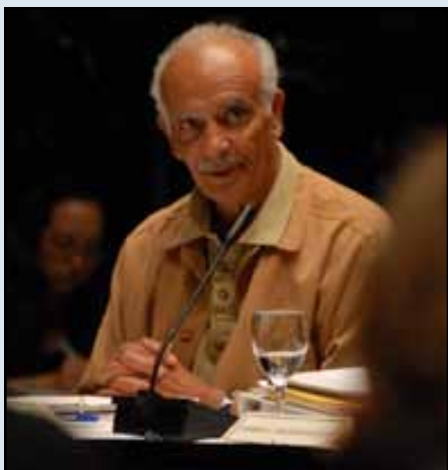
Shortly after **John Schreiber's** arrival at NJPAC in July, 2011, he led staff and leadership through a comprehensive strategic planning process, with the goal of setting the vision for the next stage in the growth of NJPAC as the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey. The plan is anchored by strategic priorities for the

next three years. They include:

- Present and produce world-class, original, entertaining, and marketable programming that distinguishes NJPAC
- Reach larger and more diverse audiences across media platforms
- Expand reach of arts education programs using arts for impact approach

The management team is excited about the renewed direction and vision and grateful for the participation and feedback of many Board and Committee members throughout the planning process. Special recognition to NJPAC Vice President and CFO **Warren Tranquada** for his efforts in shepherding the plan.

A CLASS ACT



In October, NJPAC and a world full of saddened admirers said farewell to **Gus Henningburg, Sr.**, one of NJPAC's earliest friends who made a significant contribution to the very ethos of the Arts Center.

During the planning and construction phase of the Arts Center, Gus served as NJPAC's Affirmative Action consultant and, in many ways, as the conscience of the project. As a result of his efforts (along with Leadership and a small management staff at the time), 46% of all construction jobs were awarded to

minorities and women—a milestone that set the standard for NJPAC's lifelong commitment to diversity in its workforce.

Gus was widely known for leading the effort to integrate the construction forces at Newark International Airport in the 1970s. He was also a respected television personality as the longtime host of WNBC-TV's *Positively Black*.

More than anything, Gus was a straight-shooter, with an affectionate gleam in his eye. His dedication to social justice was inspirational. He will be deeply missed. ●



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Carlos Lejnieks, President and CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties

NJPAC has long served as a place where ideas and conversation are equally at home with music and dance. Under the leadership of **John Schreiber**, this type of engagement expanded this year and much more going forward is in the offing. Two recent examples include the screening of Participant Media's *Last Call at the Oasis* for Newark high

“Thank you for the unique opportunity to help us spread the word. Your faith and support have made us into a national leader in the mentoring space. The word continues to spread, the impact continues to grow, and our children will benefit.”

—Carlos Lejnieks

President and CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties

school students and a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson and Union Counties to promote mentorship.

In April, 300 students from Newark's Science High and Tech High came to the Victoria Theater for the film screening and a panel discussion. *Last Call at the Oasis* presents a powerful argument for why the global water crisis will be the central issue facing the world this century. Following the film, the students engaged thoughtfully with a panel moderated by **Chris Daggett**, President and CEO of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and including **Kai Olson-Sawyer**, a Research and Policy Analyst for GRACE Water and Energy Programs, and **Karl Weber**, a writer and editor who edited the Participant Media guide for the film.

The following month, NJPAC

partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters to host the premiere screening of public service announcements to encourage mentorship. The program featured conversations with mentors and mentees, each sharing how meaningful their relationships are. The discussion was moderated by **Kate Snow** of NBC News. “The entire NJPAC team truly outdid themselves and we are forever grateful,” said **Michele Williers**, Vice President of Program Services. “There is a huge smile on my face knowing we together are making a difference for the youth in our community.”

Funding for these programs comes through the *President's Fund for Community Engagement* which was created and funded in honor of founding NJPAC President and CEO **Lawrence P. Goldman**. ●



The Honorable Mayor Cory A. Booker at the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival

“WORDSTOCK”

Dubbed “Wordstock” by *The New York Times*, the **Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival** made its triumphant return to NJPAC and Newark in October.

With more than 100 poetry events, the 14th biennial Festival was presented in partnership with NJPAC and the City of Newark. Some 12,000 people attended the Festival over four days, with more than 5,000 youngsters from all over the country participating in the popular “Student Day.”

Among the poets featured included former U.S. Poet Laureate **Philip Levine** and current Laureate **Natasha**

Trethewey, Pulitzer Prize-winner **C. K. Williams**, National Book Award winners **Terrance Hayes** and **Thomas Lux**, and T.S. Eliot Prize-winner **Jane Hirshfield**. Poets making Festival debuts are: Pulitzer Prize finalist **Henri Cole**, Chilean National Literature Prize winner **Raul Zurita**, Ireland’s leading woman poet **Eavan Boland**, California Poet Laureate **Juan Felipe Herrera**, National Book Award winner **Nikky Finney**, **Fanny Howe**, and **Gregory Orr**.

Other notables included Newark resident and Black Arts Movement

founder **Amiri Baraka** and National Book Award finalist **Dorrianne Laux**. The Festival also presented a world premiere performance of selections from four-time National Grand Slam Champion **Patricia Smith**’s book-length sequence *Blood Dazzler*, about Hurricane Katrina, set to Wynton Marsalis’ “At the Octoroon Balls” string quartet and performed by members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. In addition to readings and performances, all Festival poets participated in discussions and other multi-poet events.

Anchored by events at NJPAC, the



“Leaving New Jersey at the conclusion of the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival was as heartbreaking this year as it was two years ago. I never want this festival to end because I daydream about how wonderful it would be to sit in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center day after day, listening to the nation’s most highly regarded poets read their work.”

—Kayla Pongrac
Dailyamerican.com



Poet Patricia Smith and members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra String Quartet perform a world premiere of *Blood Dazzler at the Octoroon Balls*

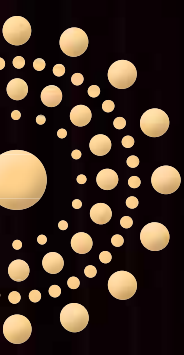
Festival transformed downtown Newark into a “Poetry Village,” with many of the performances and readings occurring at alternate venues and cultural destinations in the city, all within easy walking distance of the Arts Center, including Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, First Peddie Baptist Memorial Church, the New Jersey Historical Society, the Newark Museum, North Star Academy, and Trinity & St. Philip’s Cathedral.

“Moments of shared listening happened over and over during the four day Festival,” said Festival Director

Martin Farawell in a post-event blog. “What is there to express about witnessing this but gratitude? Gratitude for the listeners, for the poets, for our partners at NJPAC, the City of Newark and all the neighborhood venues that made a place for us, for the Dodge staff and trustees, for the tech crews and volunteers, for the Dodge Poets and Poetry Program staff. Thanks for being there, for helping all of us remember together that what Wallace Stevens called ‘the voice that is great within us’ still speaks out and we still listen.”

“Working with John Schreiber and everyone at NJPAC, we learn again and again that their world-class performance space has a world-class staff.”

—Chris Daggett
President and CEO,
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation



Great Performances

“More shows, more big names than usual, more free outdoor concerts, and more festivals than you can imagine. The 2012–2013 season at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center is jammed with music, dance, film, and cabaret performances aimed at audiences of all ages and tastes.”

—*The Star-Ledger*



NJPAC Executive Producer/Vice President David Rodriguez and President and CEO John Schreiber look on as Darlene Love performs at a community event announcing the 2012–2013 NJPAC season

ONSTAGE AT NJPAC



Among the 2012–2013 Season Highlights include Aretha Franklin, Jason Danieley and Marin Mazzie, George Clinton, Frankie Valli, Tony Bennett and Diana Krall

In a relaxed TV talk show setting, NJPAC President and CEO **John Schreiber** and Executive Producer and Vice President **David Rodriguez** unveiled the Arts Center's 2012–2013 season to a room filled with donors, friends, and community leaders in May. With a roof-rocking performance by '60's legend **Darlene Love** (appearing at NJPAC twice in 2012), the crowd was ready to storm the box office by evening's end.

Schreiber and Rodriguez outlined the signature events for the season including *America's Got Talent*, *Women's Association of NJPAC Spotlight Gala*, *Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival*, *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival*, and expanded free outdoor summer concert series. In addition, they announced the first-ever visit to NJPAC by superstar **Aretha Franklin**, a full roster of dance, children and family, classical, comedy and reality, Latin and World Music,

and Gospel and Holiday performances, as well as a variety of exclusive to the Arts Center special concerts and series.

Among the "only-at-NJPAC" programming includes: Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee **George Clinton**, **Parliament Funkadelic** and special guests **Morris Day & The Time** in NJPAC's inaugural **Funk Fest**. Throughout the season, Clinton will lead discussions on funk with high school students from around the State. Additional performances will be added to the Funk Fest throughout the season.

Jamaica at 50 is an exclusive celebration of the 50th anniversary of Jamaican Independence, featuring one of the longest reigning reggae superstar groups of all time, **Third World**, Grammy-nominated British superstar **Maxi Priest**, and the next branch of Marley lineage, **Ky-Mani Marley** (Bob's son).

Also on tap is an NJPAC-exclusive

series of film screenings that complement jazz, soul, funk and hip hop programming on NJPAC's stages during the season. Curated by award-winning director and author **Nelson George**, each screening captures performances by musical icons and will be followed by a panel discussion with guest musicians, writers and historians. Handpicked for showing are **Save the Children**, **Krush Groove**, **Wattstax**, and **Jazz on a Summer's Day**.

NJPAC's new *American Song* series includes "The First Lady of the American Musical Stage," **Barbara Cook** performing with jazz guitar icon and vocalist **John Pizzarelli** and his Trio. Also, Tony Award®-winning actress-singer, **Christine Ebersole**; **Jarrod Spector**, who played Frankie Valli in the Tony and Grammy-winning *Jersey Boys*; the one and only star of *Cats* and many other Broadway hits, **Betty Buckley**; and husband and wife Broadway co-stars **Marin Mazzie**

and **Jason Danieley** bring their *He Said, She Said* concert to NJPAC this season.

New in 2012–2013 will be an NJPAC-exclusive Thursday matinees series entitled **Afternoon Curtain** with legendary artists performing and speaking about their craft. Leading off the series will be Tony-winning song-and-dance man and actor **Ben Vereen**, followed by **A Conversation with Elaine Stritch**, with

the Tony and Emmy Award® winner sitting down with NJPAC President and CEO **John Schreiber**, producer of her Broadway autobiographical show, *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*. Also on tap, a one-man production of **An Afternoon of Shalom Aleichem**, written and performed by award-winning actor **Murray Horwitz**, and **An Afternoon in the Catskills**, featuring comic **Freddie Roman**, the longtime

dean of the Friars Club and stage with stand-up comedian **Stewie Stone**.

Since the announcement, many more engagements have been announced including dates for: comedians **Kevin Hart**; **Lisa Lampanelli**; and **Ron White**; jazz diva **Diana Krall**; the legendary **Tony Bennett**; the perpetually young **Frankie Valli**; and **Virtuosos: Al Di Meola & Gonzalo Rubalcaba**, among more to come. ●

JERSEY MOVES!

An historic convergence of the best of New Jersey's extraordinary dance companies was on display last spring as NJPAC hosted and curated *Jersey Moves*, a two-day terpsichorean festival of outstanding homegrown Garden State dance. Curated by former NJPAC Assistant Vice President and independent producer **Baraka Sele**, the festival featured performances by eleven of the State's top companies including: Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre, Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, New Jersey Ballet, Umoja Dance Company, American Repertory Ballet, Claire Porter/PORTABLES, Freespace Dance, Ramya Ramnarayan, Randy James Dance Works, and the New Jersey Tap Ensemble.

Jersey Moves! was sponsored in part by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and The Duke Foundation. ●

“NJPAC is a magnet; people respect their point of view. Here's a validation of dance that will definitely, absolutely go back out into the community.”

—Carolyn Dorfman to *The New York Times*



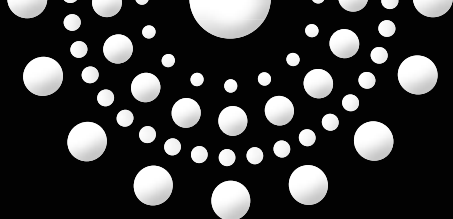
Jersey Moves!

Festival of Dance

March 24 and 25, 2012

11 New Jersey-based creative dance companies, 2 days—
1 unprecedented celebration of dance diversity in the Garden State

Saturday, March 24 at 7:30	Sunday, March 25 at 3:00
Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre	American Repertory Ballet
Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company	Claire Porter
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company	Freespace Dance
New Jersey Ballet	New Jersey Tap Ensemble
Umoja Dance Company	Ramya Ramnarayan
	Randy James Dance Works



For Love of Moody



“What a thrill it was to be a part of the first Moody Jazz Festival at NJPAC. Being a native of Newark, NJ, it was especially significant to see that music is still thriving and being supported in Newark for the new generations of musicians and singers coming up and in honor of your other homeboy, James Moody.”

—Alan Paul
The Manhattan Transfer

“Dual vital themes emerged over a week (of the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival*). One has to do with respecting a past. The other with looking to a future.”

—Jay Lustig
The Star-Ledger

It was a genuine love fest when NJPAC presented its first *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival*, a weeklong celebration of the legendary longtime Newarker who charmed the world with his virtuosity and loving nature.

One of the first major new programming initiatives under the leadership of **John Schreiber**, NJPAC’s

President and CEO, the Festival boasted two memorable all-star Prudential Hall performances; the world premiere of a new children’s musical based on the popular *Magic Tree House* series; the first-ever “Sassy Awards” in honor of favorite daughter Sarah Vaughan; the inauguration of a new jazz brunch series; and a host of free community events in and around Newark.

“It really turned out to be everything we hoped for,” said Schreiber. “The performers, the audiences, and the total vibe would have made Moody smile. And his smile was like a great bear hug.”

The Festival was curated by Artistic Advisor **Christian McBride**. See the following pages for a recap of the week’s top events.



David Sanborn

THE CONCERTS

The Festival's first major event, "For Love of Moody," attracted a near capacity Prudential Hall crowd and featured jazz superstar **George Benson**, **The Manhattan Transfer**, and **David Sanborn**, along with a Who's Who of legendary journeyman musicians. "James Moody was an extraordinary musician and wonderful human being," said Sanborn.

"It was my honor and privilege to participate in a tribute to a great man. I hope this festival continues."

The groove got hotter the next night with "Miles Davis and Gil Evans: Still Ahead," a masterful recreation of the seminal albums by these cherished artists, *Sketches of Spain*, *Porgy and Bess*, and *Miles Ahead*. An exclusive East

Coast presentation, this unique NJPAC event was truly a once-in-a-lifetime evening. "I cannot thank you enough for including me in this very special performance," said **Dan Willis**, who played reeds in the Miles/Gil orchestra. "I will NEVER forget being a part of it. What a massive event and it was an incredible performance." ●



George Benson (left), Linda (Mrs. James) Moody and Thurston Briscoe, Vice President, Programming and Production, WBGO Jazz 88.3FM (right)

A NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS

A first-ever for NJPAC, the Moody Festival saw the world premiere of a sparkling new children's musical, *A Night in New Orleans*, which told the story of two young explorers, Jack and Annie, who travel back in time to convince a teenage Louis Armstrong that he should continue pursuing his love of music so he could go on to become the King of Jazz.

The delightful show played two public performances in the Victoria Theater and traveled to schools throughout Newark entertaining more than 2000 city fourth-graders. The show was performed by students from NJPAC's arts education program and directed and choreographed by NJPAC teaching artist **Janeece Freeman Clark**.

Based on "A Good Night for Ghosts," number 42 in the multi-million selling *Magic Tree House* series by the children's book rock star **Mary Pope Osborne**, the show features book and lyrics by playwright/musician **Will Osborne**, along with Broadway veteran **Murray Horwitz** (*Ain't Misbehavin'*) and music by the estimable **Allen Touissant**. *A Night in New Orleans* was sponsored, in part, by the Women's Association of NJPAC. ●



"Working with John Schreiber and the team of NJPAC to bring *A Night in New Orleans* to life was a fantastic experience. We can't imagine a better home for the premiere of our musical than the Victoria Theater, nor a better partner than NJPAC to help get the show and books to deserving schoolchildren."

—Mary Pope Osborne and Will Osborne



IN SARAH'S FOOTSTEPS



Cyrille Aimée, winner of the first Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition

It was one of those legendary “star in the making” moments. In 1942, an eighteen year old **Sarah Vaughan** entered and won the Amateur Night contest at the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem. Her prize was \$10 and a weeklong engagement at the Apollo opening for the sublime **Ella Fitzgerald**.

As homage to the beloved Newark native, the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival* hosted the first annual *Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition*. Part of NJPAC’s JAZZ ROOTS series with producer **Larry Rosen** and in partnership with WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM, the competition drew nearly 900 online submissions from across the world. A panel of industry experts narrowed the field to five finalists who performed live onstage at NJPAC in the Victoria Theater for a capacity audience and group of highly esteemed judges.

The winner of the very first “Sassy Award” was Brooklyn-based French vocalist **Cyrille Aimée**, a 2007 winner of both the first and public prizes in the Montreux Jazz Festival Competition, with four CDs and recordings for feature films to her credit. “She has the soul of a Gypsy, the swing of a horn player, and the intimate sound of an angel,” said competition producer, Rosen. Aimée was awarded \$5,000 and an opening spot at a 2013 JAZZ ROOTS concert.

First runner-up **Ashleigh Smith** of Lewisville, Texas won \$1,500 and second runner-up **Sandra Booker** of Sherman Oaks, Calif. won \$500. The other finalists were **Alexis Cole** and **Hilary Kohl**, both of New York City.

Jazzmeia Horn of Dallas, Texas won *The Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition Rising Star Award*. The award was created for the purpose

“Cyrille Aimée’s shoulders bobbed in line with the bass player, as though they were having a conversation, and she let loose her instantly recognizable sound: a soft, girlish buzz with a touch of an Edith Piaf-like quaver.

After her swinging rendition of “I’m Beginning to See the Light,” her bubbly take on “Sometimes I’m Happy” and a magnetic version of the ballad “I’m Through With Love,” the French singer won the first *Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition*.”

—Ronni Reich
The Star-Ledger

of discovering young talented jazz vocal artists that deserve wider recognition and mentoring in their career as a jazz singer.

Judges for the finals of the *Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition* were **Dee Dee Bridgewater**, the Grammy and Tony Award-winning jazz vocalist; vocalese and scat pioneer **Jon Hendricks**, vocalist and Executive Director of Jazz House Kids **Melissa Walker**, WBGO radio host and jazz journalist **Michael Bourne**, and producer of JAZZ ROOTS and co-founder of GRP Records, **Larry Rosen**

The *Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition* was powered by Indaba Music (IndabaMusic.com), the leading online community of musicians and marketplace for music opportunities, and sponsored, in part, by The Prudential Foundation, Verizon, Audible.com, The Women’s Association of NJPAC, PSEG and Whole Foods. ●

OUR FRIENDS CELEBRATE TOO



(l-r) Melissa Walker with some of her Jazz House Kids and Christian McBride, Artistic Advisor. TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival

As part of the Moody Festival, the Montclair-based **Jazz House Kids** music education program celebrated its 10th anniversary with a star-studded concert and gala fundraising dinner at NJPAC. Montclair residents **Melissa Walker**, who founded **Jazz House Kids** and serves as its president, and her husband **Christian McBride**, the Grammy Award-winning big band leader, jazz bassist and Artistic Advisor for the Moody Festival, were joined onstage by actress **S. Epatha Merkerson** and jazz artists **George Duke**, **Angelique Kidjo**, **Maceo Parker**, **Fred Wesle**, and **Pat Metheny**. The gala's honorees included philanthropist **John Cali**, jazz saxophonist great **Wayne Shorter**, and actor, singer and social activist **Harry Belafonte**. ●



NEWARK'S FIRST LADY OF JAZZ



If you've ever met **Dorthaan Kirk**, Special Events and Programming Coordinator for the nation's greatest jazz radio station, WBGO Jazz 88.3FM right in downtown Newark, the first thing you notice is the smile. It's warm and welcoming and just a little bit flirty and playful.

How fitting then that the very first "Dorthaan's Place," a series of jazz brunches in NJPAC's NICO Kitchen+Bar, shared all of the elements of its namesake.

A sold-out house enjoyed the stylings of the **Geri Allen Quartet** and a specially prepared buffet while the hostess marched about the room, posing for pictures here, connecting people with people there, and generally ensuring that everyone was having as good a time as she was.

"It was a huge success and hopefully this is the beginning of a venue for the people of Newark and the surrounding areas to attend, hear quality jazz, enjoy good food and fellowship with each other," said Dorthaan. "For me personally, I'm still quite honored and humbled that I was chosen for an event to be named for me. I believe in the music and want to see it preserved for future generations."

The rest of the season for Dorthaan's Place includes performances by: **The Houston Person Quartet**, the **Don Braden Organix Group** and the **Cyrus Chestnut Trio**. ●

Arts Education



Present and former winners of the *Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts* administered by the NJPAC Arts Education Department

“I think it’s going to be a huge help, especially financially, but just the honor of being a recipient of the scholarship ... it’s a big spot to fill.”

—Israel Hernandez

2012 NJPAC/*Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts* \$40,000 scholarship winner

ON THE ROAD

With *America's Got Talent* taking over nearly every available space in the building this summer, the annual collaboration between the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Arts Education Department and the New Jersey Youth Theater needed new digs this year for its summer musical.

Thanks to Council of Trustees member and Montclair State University President **Susan Cole** and her team, the Kasser Theater on campus proved to be an excellent and welcoming venue.

On the heels of such critically acclaimed productions as *Rent*, *Ragtime*, *West Side Story*, and last year's *Kiss Me, Kate*, the creative team mounted a sparkling first-rate production of Broadway's longest running musical revue, *Smokey Joe's Café*.

With a cast of twelve and a blazing orchestra, Director **Cynthia Meryl** and her longtime cohorts, **Ilene Greenbaum**, Musical Director and **Sherry Alban**,



Cast of the NJPAC/New Jersey Youth Theater production of *Smokey Joe's Café*

Choreographer, took audiences back to the doo wop street singing of the 1960's with expert renditions of numbers from the songbook of composers Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller including "Hound Dog," "Yakety-Yak," "Fools Fall in Love," "Charlie Brown" and nearly two dozen more. ●

ON THEIR WAY

Four Newark youngsters joined the impressive roster of *NJPAC/Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts* this year as the program added a third \$20,000 scholarship in addition to the top award of \$40,000.

Top winner was **Israel Hernandez**, an 18-year old Arts High School tenor who fell in love with opera in high school. He currently studies at the Manhattan School of Music and plans on a career as a singer.

The \$20,000 scholarship winners were: **Malissa Hanson**, 17, a musical theater singer who has worked with Cissy Houston at New Hope Baptist

Church for eight years and wants to study the music business; **Jordaan Scott**, 17, who specializes in contemporary ballet and modern dance, and has performed with the New Jersey Ballet junior corps; and **Whitney Perez**, 19, who hopes to run an organization to help young dancers in urban cities learn to express themselves.

"For fourteen years, **Donald Newhouse**, the Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, and *The Star-Ledger* have fostered the *NJPAC/Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts* into one of New Jersey's most prestigious scholarship awards," said

Faye Competello, the scholarship's manager and resident den mother. "We are proud of the program's unprecedented success—most notably a 100% graduation rate over the last nine years." As a part of the scholarship, each winner receives paid internships at NJPAC and career counseling and guidance services. The young artists also will give solo performances at the Arts Center for every year of their award.

The *NJPAC/Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts* is also supported, in part, by the Women's Association of NJPAC and John and Suzanne William through Goldman Sachs Gives. ●



Colors of the Rainbow, a culminating performance for the student participants in NJPAC's *Dancing Classrooms* program

COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

Fifth-graders from Bayonne, Newark, Jersey City and Union City shined on the Victoria Theater stage in May when NJPAC hosted the first ever *New Jersey Colors of the Rainbow Team Match*.

Colors of the Rainbow was the end-of-term celebration for fifth-grade students participating in *Dancing Classrooms™*, an in-school NJPAC residency that teaches social skills, confidence and manners through the art of ballroom dance. Founded by ballroom dancing champion **Pierre DuLaine**, who emceed the culminating event at NJPAC, *Dancing Classrooms™* and *Colors of the Rainbow Team Match* in New York City were featured in the documentary film *Mad, Hot Ballroom* and the feature film, *Take the Lead*, starring Antonio Banderas. NJPAC Arts Education is the official New Jersey provider for *Dancing Classrooms™*.

The competition featured teams of 12 students from six schools: All Saints Catholic Academy in Bayonne; Resurrection School in Jersey City; Rafael Hernandez Elementary School in

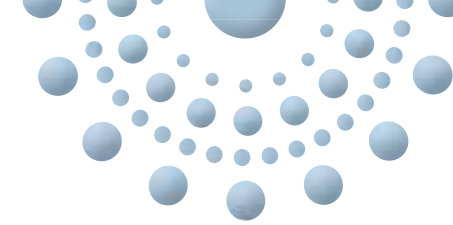
Newark; Greater Newark Charter School in Newark; Hudson School in Union City; and Veterans Memorial Elementary School in Union City, who went on to win the competition.

Judging the match was an all-star panel of New Jersey dance luminaries, including **Paul McRae**, Assistant Artistic Director of the New Jersey Ballet Company; **Randy James**, Associate Professor at Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts and Artistic Director of Randy James Dance Works; and acclaimed dancer **Claire Porter**, who has toured the world with her collection of comedic movement monologues, *Portables*.

Dancing Classrooms is made possible in part by: Victoria Foundation, Marian & David Rocker, Merck Company Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Jennifer Chalsty, TD Charitable Foundation, Novo Nordisk, The Provident Bank Foundation, Ann and Stan Borowiec, Edison Properties and an anonymous donor. ●

“You helped make memories that will last a lifetime. Our students and parents were thrilled with the end result of the *Dancing Classroom* experience. It was quite the night. We had a blast. All day long in school, teachers, parents, the principal, and students were raving about the experience. The “team” wore their medals proudly ALL DAY LONG. Again, it was a great night, and we had a great time.”

—Mary Cole,
Teacher, All Saints Catholic Academy,
Bayonne



Nikkole Salter

TEACH THE CHILDREN

“When a parent tells me that their child has grown substantially as a performer, I am honored, but when they say that their child has gained a greater sense of self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-awareness—that’s when I know I’ve truly done my job.”

—Janeece Freeman Clark
NJPAC Teaching Artist

The heart and soul of the NJPAC Arts Education program are the teaching artists who go into classrooms, create lesson plans, inspire creativity, and serve as exemplars of how talent and hard work can lead to great things. Two of our most popular teaching artists are **Janeece Freeman Clark**, who works with musical theater students in the *Young Artist Institute* and *Summer Youth Performance Workshop* programs; and **Nikkole Salter**, who has worked in the same programs, as well as in-school theater residencies and the recent Social Impact Performance Residency.

“Our teaching artists represent NJPAC and uphold the highest standards of excellence and professionalism,” said **Sanaz Hojreh**, Assistant Vice President, Arts Education. “Moreover, as talented, creative, and successful artists themselves, they embody so many of our students’ aspirations. We are proud that they continue to partner with us to make a real difference in the lives of so many young people.”

Janeece has spent most of her career performing and educating. Young audiences know her as “Miss Molly” on PBS KIDS children’s series *Dittydoodle Works*. She has appeared on and off-Broadway and in regional theaters across the country. She has been an NJPAC teaching artist since 2009 and also heads her own private vocal studio in South Orange.

“Coming from a performance background, musical theater has always



Janeece Freeman Clark with Marcus Beckett

been a huge part of who I am,” said Janeece. “But, sharing those skills with diverse groups of eager learners at NJPAC has taken my love for the art to a whole new level. Nothing brings me greater joy than knowing I’ve assisted a young person on their life’s journey.”

Nikkole is an Obie Award winning actress and playwright who has been a teaching artist with NJPAC since 2010. She is also the founder and Executive Director of The Continuum Project, Inc., a nonprofit organization that

creates innovative artistic programming for community empowerment and enrichment. Most recently, she earned acclaim for her role as the lead in the Alicia Keys produced, Broadway-bound production of Lydia Diamond’s *Stick Fly*.

“I have never experienced an institution of NJPAC’s size and scope that still manages to feel like home,” said Nikkole. “The staff in arts education personally engage each one of the young people they serve, and each student walks away with a first-rate education. It’s a win-win.”

AN EMOTIONAL LEGACY



Henry Gardner and Noelle Staudt in *Godspell*, Summer Youth Performance Workshop

“I can’t help feeling like NJPAC is what my father left for me—the best thing he left me...”

—Noelle Staudt
Summer Youth Performance Workshop
and Young Artist Institute student

The father of one of NJPAC’s longtime *Summer Youth Performance Workshop* and *Young Artist Institute* students, **Noelle Staudt**, was an iron worker employed to weld the Arts Center’s frame during its construction. Noelle was just an infant when the bones of NJPAC rose from an empty lot. Her father passed away when she was a child.

When Noelle’s outstanding vocal talent began to emerge, her mom Kathleen enrolled Noelle in NJPAC arts training classes and she has continued her studies with the Arts Center’s Arts Education Department ever since.

No one knew about Noelle’s deep connection to NJPAC until the morning after the *Summer Youth Performance Workshop* showcase this past August when, for the first time, she shared the story through tears with teaching artists, staff, and fellow students. By the time she got to “I can’t help feeling like NJPAC is what my father left for me—the best thing he left me...” there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. ●

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A career in the arts is not the ultimate goal of NJPAC’s Arts Education Department. Still, we can’t help but feel a bit proud when alumni of our training programs find employment as working artists. Here are just a few of the most recent examples:

• **Daisy Hobbs**—last seen in the NJPAC/ NJYT production of *Carousel* in 1997,

Daisy appeared in the national tour of the Broadway hit, *Memphis*.

• **Jon Hoche**—a veteran of the NJPAC/ NJYT production of *Once On This Island*, Jon snagged the role of Lead Puppeteer in the national tour of *War Horse*.

• **Lauren Palmieri**—a graduate of our 2007 production of *Carousel*,

Lauren beamed brightly as Belle in the national touring company of *Beauty and the Beast* and is currently appearing in the national tour of *Elf*.

Other graduates, as reported in earlier Reports, have performed on television, in music videos, and in national tours of *American Idiot*, *Rock of Ages*, *Rent* and others. ●



A scene from the *Summer Youth Performance Workshop* final presentation

AND MORE...

- NJPAC's Arts Education Department hosted a Free Workshop week to expose students to the many education opportunities at the Arts Center. One hundred and fifteen young people attended the workshops, resulting in an estimated new student roster of 40 for the *Young Artist Institute*.
- This year, NJPAC's Arts Education Department was asked by Newark Arts High School to pilot a six-week extended day learning project to augment vocal curriculum with musical theater training. Headed up by NJPAC teaching artist **Janeece Freeman-Clark**, the program ended with a performance in the black box Horizon Theater for family and friends.
- The Horizon Theater was also the site for a Performance Project, a culminating showcase for the *Young Artist Institute* where students got to perform for family, friends and fans to showcase the skills they had learned during the semester. The program featured outstanding performances in ballet, modern dance, hip hop, vocal music, musical theater, acting and instrumental jazz.
- NJPAC partnered with the Newark Repertory Theater Company to bring a performance of *For Colored Girls...* to the Horizon Theater. Led by director/producer and Women's Association Trustee **Marcia Brown**, the production of the landmark play was well-received.



Contributions

Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens final concert, one of the NJPAC arts training programs supported through gifts like those this year from Amy Liss and the family of Norman Goldberg

Active year-long, the NJPAC Development Department creates opportunities at all giving levels for individuals, corporations, and foundations to support the programming, education, and operations of the Arts Center. With great assistance from a very active Vanguard

Committee, chaired by NJPAC Director **Ann Borowiec**, the Development Department hosts special cultivation events; actively pursues foundation and government grants, creates distinct visibility programs for corporate sponsorships, and works closely with individuals

at all giving levels to create unique and impactful philanthropic opportunities. In general, the NJPAC Development Department stands ready to work with donors interested in helping to preserve and sustain the mission and viability of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.



BUSINESS PARTNERS ROUNDTABLE

The Business Partners Roundtable is a quarterly gathering of top level executives from NJPAC-supporting companies, where attendees get to network and interact with some of the leading lights in the statewide, regional and national business and political communities.

2012 saw five compelling speakers share their insights with NJPAC Business Partners. They included: **William S. Demchak**, Senior Vice Chairman of PNC Financial Services, who spoke about the Banking Industry at a Crossroads; **Jeff Smisek**, President and CEO of United Continental Holdings on the topic "Why the U.S. Needs an Aviation Policy;" **Ed Gilligan**, Vice Chairman,




(l-r) Jeff Smisek, President and CEO of United Continental Holdings and William S. Demchak, Senior Vice Chairman of PNC Financial Services speak to the NJPAC Business Partners Roundtable

American Express Company and former NJPAC Director; **Ken Frazier**, Chairman, President and CEO, Merck & Co., Inc. (Topic: Healthcare Innovation—A Long-Term Focus); and **David Samson**,



Chairman, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The Business Partners Roundtable series is sponsored, in part, by PNC Bank. 

HELPING THE TEACHERS TEACH

Amy Liss made a generous commitment to Arts Education in 2012. She is supporting, in particular, NJPAC's first week-long Arts Education Professional Development Institute for 25 Newark classroom teachers from the eight priority schools identified by superintendent **Cami Anderson** and 25 NJPAC artist teachers. Together they will learn teaching strategies, classroom management, emerging ideas in the performing arts and curriculum integration. Although the Arts Center has offered teacher training programs for years, the Institute will offer intensive five day training—the hours necessary to absorb and synthesize the required material and put it into practice. According to Mrs. Liss, “among the many efforts to improve the education children receive, teachers receive short shrift. I believe that supporting the professional development of teachers will ensure the success of their students.”

FOR THE KIDS

NJPAC lost another dear friend this year when longtime Council of Trustees member **Norman Goldberg** passed away. Along with his wife, Sue, the Goldbergs were devoted NJPAC members and frequent patrons since opening season in 1997. He was a huge supporter of the Arts Center's Arts Education programs and, in honor of that passion, his family established the Norman Goldberg Scholarship for Children which, to date, has raised over \$5,000 for education programs at NJPAC. We will miss Norman's generous soul and active presence at the Arts Center. We are deeply honored that the family chose to preserve his legacy through supporting opportunities for children to participate in NJPAC's arts training programs. We think he would be thrilled.



Backstage at first free performance of *A Night in New Orleans* at Newark's First Avenue School. From l-r – D. Nicholas Miceli, Market President, TD Bank, author Mary Pope Osborne, librettist/lyricist Will Osborne, Linda Moody, NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber

CONVENIENCE... AND GENEROSITY TOO

With a tagline as “America's Most Convenient Bank,” you would expect **TD Bank** to be something special. In NJPAC's eyes, this year they proved their mettle and then some. As title sponsor of the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival*, the Bank was an extraordinary partner in getting a nascent event off the ground and helping us let the world know that something amazing was in the offing.

“TD was proud to support the TD James Moody Jazz Festival,” said **D. Nicholas Miceli**, Market President. “It was an amazingly successful first year and we look forward to building on it in years to come. It was also very gratifying to watch the energy of the children as they left the performances of the *Magic*

Tree House musical wearing their TD backpacks.”

“This partnership between NJPAC and TD Bank worked so well,” added **Gregg Gerken**, NJPAC Director and Head of CRE USA for TD Bank. “First and foremost because of the people in both organizations being dedicated to making this a success. Secondly, the programming was unique and first rate, from the headliners to the children's musical, great attention was given to delivering quality performances. We are proud to sponsor and support the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival* and to be partners with the incredibly dedicated staff at NJPAC. I encourage everyone to share the experience.”

IN THE SUMMERTIME

Richmond County Savings Foundation, a generous partner since 2003, provided \$40,000 in funding for NJPAC's enormously popular *Sounds of the City* outdoor summer concert series. Support for this program allows us to present the concerts for free to our community on Thursdays in July and August. “NJPAC is my favorite place to go in New Jersey,” said **Cesar Claro**, the Foundation's Executive Director. “It's a cultural gem.”



Home of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra



Music Director Jacques Lacombe with the NJSO at NJPAC – 2012–2013 Opening Night

Once more this year, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center celebrates its two-decade plus partnership with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. NJPAC was built, in part, to be home to the State's foremost musical organization and the ensuing years have proven to be mutually beneficial and often monumentally special.

Symphony highlights for 2012 include:

- The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra announced the close of the NJSO Comprehensive Campaign, a major fundraising initiative that raised \$35 million in support of the Orchestra, exceeding its \$32 million goal.

A lead gift of \$3 million from **Prudential Financial** matched campaign gifts between \$25,000 and \$100,000. "Prudential is proud to support the NJSO, which has enhanced the culture of Newark and the lives of thousands of New Jersey residents in our community and across the state," said **John Strangfeld**, Prudential's Chairman and CEO and also an NJPAC Director.

Founding campaign architects **Ruth and Michael Lipper** and **Josh and Judy Weston** issued a \$5 million challenge—for campaign gifts of \$250,000 and above—that the NJSO met and exceeded.

"Mike and I are proud to support the NJSO, and it has been inspiring to see the Orchestra's patrons and corporate partners rise to the occasion and meet the campaign challenge we made with Josh and Judy Weston," said **Ruth Lipper**. "As a co-chair of the NJSO board, I am so thrilled that this historic campaign has raised these funds to ensure that the Orchestra will continue to flourish as a prominent, dynamic arts organization in this state for many years to come."

The Campaign received major gifts from three corporations, two foundations and 43 individual households.



The “Fire” Winter Festival with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the Francesca Harper Project

“It has been six years since Carnegie Hall was a place for Jersey pride, but the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra more than made up for lost time, playing at the Spring for Music festival. The festival awards North American orchestras for adventurous programming, and for his Carnegie Hall debut, music director Jacques Lacombe delivered not only bold, intelligent choices, but also sure-handed performances.”

—Ronni Reich,
The Star-Ledger

- The “Fire” Winter Festival in January, saw the NJSO bring the **Francesca Harper Project** (dance company) and **Arc3Design** (lighting) for Beethoven’s *The Creatures of Prometheus* with original choreography and special lighting effects. “The display could have amounted to mere novelty, had the ensemble not delivered the goods musically,” said *The New York Times*. “The orchestra mastered this brilliant, diffuse and fitful music.”
- The Orchestra’s New Jersey Roots Project continued this year, with a world premiere of a commission from

George Walker with the composer in attendance in March, and the presentation of **Edward T. Cone’s** Music for Strings.

- The NJSO presented a special concert program at Carnegie Hall in May as part of the second annual Spring for Music Festival. The performance marked NJSO Music Director **Jacques Lacombe’s** Carnegie Hall debut. Renowned pianist **MarcAndré Hamelin** performed Busoni’s Piano Concerto. The NJSO gave the Carnegie Hall premiere of Weill’s Symphony No. 1, “Berliner,” and soprano Hila Plitmann

joined the Orchestra for Varèse’s Nocturnal. Both the Busoni and Varèse works featured the men of the Westminster Symphonic Choir.

- The 2012–2013 NJSO season began at NJPAC in September with a gala and *Rhapsody in Blue* performance featuring pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaud**. The program was an all-American one that had Duke Ellington’s *Harlem* and two New Jersey Roots Project works—John Harbison’s *Remembering Gatsby: Foxtrot for Orchestra* and Ferde Grofé’s *Grand Canyon Suite*—as highlights. ●

MORE LACOMBE, GRATEFULLY



New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Music Director Jacques Lacombe

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Music Director **Jacques Lacombe** has extended his contract through the 2015–2016 season, the Orchestra announced in July. The acclaimed music director, who began his tenure with the NJSO in 2010, will continue in that capacity for three years beyond his current contract, which expires at the end of August 2013.

“My experiences as Music Director of the NJSO over the past two seasons have been both enjoyable and creatively stimulating,” Lacombe said. “I am thrilled to extend my relationship with the NJSO, and I look forward to continuing to present captivating programs and to interacting with the audiences and communities of New Jersey.” ●

ADIEU, ANDRE

After five and a half enormously successful years as NJSO President & CEO, **André Gremillet** stepped down and accepted an appointment as Managing Director of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) in Australia; Gremillet joined the NJSO in January 2007.

“André Gremillet’s unique combination of musical training and business acumen enabled him to provide valuable leadership to the NJSO for the past five and a half years,” says Board Co-Chair **Stephen Sichak Jr.**

“It has been exciting and gratifying to lead this fine organization over the past few years,” Gremillet said. “I am grateful for the wonderful support and dedication of the Board, musicians and staff.” ●



Former NJSO President and CEO André Gremillet with longtime NJPAC friend Linda Morgan

Women's Association of NJPAC



The finale of *Spotlight Gala 2012* featuring The Four Tops, En Vogue, Darlene Love, Valerie Simpson and NJPAC Arts Education Alumnus MJ Rodriguez

SPOTLIGHT GALA 2012

It was a night for legends at this year's Women's Association of NJPAC's 17th Annual Spotlight Gala, the annual fundraiser which raised \$1.9 million for the Arts Center and its transformative arts education programs.

An incredible cast of superstar acts including **Darlene Love**, **The Four Tops**, **En Vogue** and **Valerie Simpson** were backed by a band led by **Ray Chew**, who also helms the band on *American Idol*.

The evening started with a performance by an alumnus of NJPAC's arts training programs, **MJ Rodriguez**, winner of the 2011 Clive Barnes Award for his critically-acclaimed performance in the recent off-Broadway revival of *Rent*. A Newark native who found his artistic voice in part through his training at NJPAC which began when he was just 11 years old, MJ gave the audience a first-hand look at the caliber of NJPAC's

education programs.

After each headliner act performed, the evening ended with the full lineup of talent together on stage for an unforgettable finale rendition of Diana Ross's anthem for social justice and community, "Reach Out and Touch."

Dinner this year was held throughout the entire NJPAC building, with elegant table settings in the Victoria Theater, Chase Room, Parsonnet Room, Ryan



(l-r) *Spotlight Gala 2012* Co-Chairs Sheila F. Klehm and Mary Beth O'Connor flank NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber; Chambers Award winner Walter and Judy Shipley with Women's Association Trustee Patricia Chambers and NJPAC Founding Chairman Raymond G. Chambers; NJPAC Arts Education Alumnus MJ Rodriguez

Gallery, and NICO Kitchen + Bar. Dancing and dessert followed in the Prudential Hall lobby.

The evening's honorees were recognized with video tributes: **Walter and Judy Shipley** (Chambers Award); **Alfred C. Koepp** (Ryan Award); and **Robert E. Moritz** and **PwC** (Vagelos Award).

Special thanks to Dinner Co-Chair **D. Nicholas Miceli**, Market President, TD Bank and to Women's Association Trustees and *Spotlight Gala 2012* Co-Chairs **Sheila F. Klehm** and **Mary Beth O'Connor** and President of the Board, **Christine C. Gilfillan**.

Spotlight Gala 2012's lead sponsor

was **Prudential Financial**, with underwriting by **The MCJ Amelior Foundation**. Additional thanks to major supporters: **Toby and Leon G. Cooperman**, **PwC**, and **Public Service Enterprise Group** and to **TD Charitable Foundation** for a special challenge grant. ●

CELEBRATING SPRING

Another grand tradition for NJPAC courtesy of the Women's Association is the *Annual Spring Luncheon and Auction* which, this year attracted over 400 of the State's most prominent women business and philanthropic leaders. Under the leadership of Luncheon Co-Chairs and Women's Association Trustees **Heather Kapsimalis** and **Robin Cruz McClearn**, the luncheon raised over \$170,000

for the Arts Center's education and community initiatives.

This year's special guest speakers were **Mary Pope Osborne** and her husband **Will Osborne** who later in the fall would be responsible for the world premiere of a new children's musical, *A Night in New Orleans*, as part of the *TD James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival*. The guests listened to Mary and

Will speak about literacy and the arts and how excited they were to partner with NJPAC on a brand new musical.

Guests were then treated to a special sneak preview of songs and dialogue from the musical, featuring students from NJPAC's arts education program. It was another memorable special event hosted by the Women's Association of NJPAC. ●

MORE IS BETTER

The Women's Association and NJPAC combined membership this year, increasing tenfold the number of members of the Association. The merger allows for those interested in supporting the Arts Center to enjoy the "buy one, get one free" privileges of belonging to two organizations with distinctive perks of membership. It has also opened up a great new universe with whom to communicate about the exciting events sponsored throughout the year by the Women's Association. ●



WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES



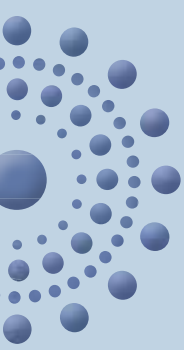
**New Women's Association of NJPAC Trustees
Marcia Brown and Mikki Taylor**

Three prominent and talented leaders joined the Women's Association of NJPAC as new Trustees this year. They are: **Mikki Taylor**, Editor-at-Large for ESSENCE magazine and Founder and President of Mikki Taylor Enterprises, LLC, which serves as a holding company for a number of vertical businesses including Satin Doll Productions, a full-service image building and consulting division, and MT Communications, a strategic communications and branding company. Most recently, she was national

spokesperson for AMBI Skincare. She has been featured on many television outlets including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The View*, *TODAY*, *EXTRA*, *Inside Edition*, *CNN*, *the Style Network*, *BET*, and many more. **Marvette "Bunny" Johnson** is Vice President and General Manager of Neiman Marcus Short Hills, having joined the company in 1977 as a Selling Associate. The West Orange resident has been recognized for her business and philanthropic leadership. And **Marcia Brown** is the Vice Chancellor for Student and Community Affairs for the Rutgers-Newark campus. She has accumulated more than twenty-five years of leadership/community service/professional experience in and on behalf of the Newark community. She is co-founder of the South Ward Junior Crimefighters, Harriet Tubman Girls Club, and Citizens for a Better Newark. She is also founder of Dare to Fly Productions which recently produced *For Colored Girls...* to great acclaim. ●

CULTURAL LEGACY

An important action this year was to revive the Women's Association's Cultural Legacy Committee which was created to foster an appreciation and respect for the City of Newark and its storied cultural past. This year's committee co-chairs are Women's Association Trustees **Audrey Bartner** and **Dena F. Lowenbach** who, in association with **Ferlanda Fox Nixon**, Trustee and VP, Advocacy, are working to present and produce some wonderful programs for the membership in Spring 2013. Past Cultural Legacy Committee events have included conversations with native Newarker Philip Roth and an afternoon with jazz great Marian McPartland. Some ideas in the making for this year are guided historical tours of Newark and a film series. ●



Volunteer Ventures



(l-r) NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber, Lifetime Achievement Volunteers Joan Borneman, Vince Wells, Elayne Lite, and Bill Leiss with Guest Speaker Loren Schoenberg and NJPAC Director of Volunteers Ginny Bowers Coleman

APPRECIATION

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, sponsored by the Women's Association of NJPAC, was an outstanding salute to volunteer spirit, with a jazzy flair. The evening's special guest speaker was **Loren Schoenberg**, Executive Director of National Jazz Museum in Harlem. Also a noted saxophonist, educator and author, Schoenberg shared his personal recollections of Louis Armstrong and other jazz era luminaries.

Among the evening's top honorees:

Vince Wells joined the small, but growing group of Lifetime Achievement Volunteers, **Maria and Walter Fischer** were honored with the Kandice Dickinson Award for volunteer assistance to NJPAC's Front of House staff; and **Jean Anderson** and **Eunice Taylor**, were this year's winners of the Dena F. Lowenbach Volunteer of the Year award. The volunteer committee, chaired by **Joan Borneman** worked together seamlessly for a night of fun, glamour and jazz! 

"I think volunteers are regarded as a respected, positive, proactive resource."

—Marjorie Mouring (previous recipient of Dena F. Lowenbach Volunteer of the Year and Kandice Dickinson Award)



A BUSY SUMMER...AND FALL

If you ask NJPAC volunteers what they did on their summer vacation, a big majority of them will say they spent a lot of time helping the Arts Center welcome thousands of people to the live broadcasts of *America's Got Talent* and the expanded outdoor summer concert series. Some 60-plus volunteers served as greeters and shared information with attendees (many of them first-timers) about NJPAC's 2012–2013 season.

The volunteer contingent was also integral in the successful relocation of the annual summer musical collaboration between NJPAC's Arts Education Department and the New Jersey Youth Theatre. When *Smokey Joe's Café* had to hit the road to make room for

America's Got Talent, we needed to galvanize a group of volunteers to make sure that audiences at Montclair State University's Kasser Theater were welcomed just as warmly as they would be to any NJPAC performance. They did so with characteristic flair and grace. "Our volunteers and staff were on the job, said veteran volunteer **Troyce Dunson**. "Everyone looked so professional and was wearing a big smile of welcome as they assisted all the theatergoers. It was a great and rewarding day, but there is no place like home."

And there was no rest as summer turned into fall and the new NJPAC season began in earnest. One of the first major events was the Dodge

Poetry Festival which, for the second time, required a herculean volunteer effort. Under the leadership of Director of Volunteer Services, **Ginny Bowers Coleman** with dedicated volunteer deputies **Mada Liebman** and **Amy Tenzer**, the Volunteer Department coordinated 170 volunteers for eight venues over four days. This included new partnerships with North Star Academy, Rutgers University, Americorps, and the New Jersey Youth Organization. Once again, visitors to the Arts Center marveled at how welcome they felt and how well-coordinated all of the venues were. This was a huge testament to the organization, dedication, and passion of the NJPAC volunteers. ●

"I enjoy greeting people with warmth and going away knowing we have enhanced the pride of NJPAC."

—Sidney Travis



VOLUNTEER FACTS:

- 10,807 volunteer hours were contributed to NJPAC from July 2011 to June 2012
- 3,313 patrons were assisted through the volunteer-staffed Customer Information Center
- 82% of NJPAC volunteers are female, 18% male
- Volunteer-led public tours increased by 80% last year
- NJPAC welcomed 24 new volunteers last year ●

Who Are We?

From finance to programming, education to fundraising, the NJPAC professional team shares a passion for making the Arts Center experience world-class and first-rate. In this year's *Report to the Community*, we shine the spotlight on four of our staff members who work hard each day to promote and embody the NJPAC mission.

GUEST SERVICES

Once in a while, something happens at NJPAC that is so special, we want to share it with the immediate world. Here's a story from the past year: A woman called about a week or so prior to the performance by Daughtry (of *American Idol* fame). Her 8-year old grandson was recovering from a brain cyst and needed to wear a metal cone around his head. She was concerned that someone might bump into him in an orchestra seat. Attending the concert meant everything to the young fellow.

NJPAC's Ticket Services and House Management teams went into action. They arranged for the family to sit in The President's Box and made special plans for them to attend the sound check earlier in the day. The drummer gave the youngster his sticks and Daughtry himself gave a shout out to the boy from the stage and even asked him mom to e-mail him about his progress. The youngster still has a long road of recovery ahead, but NJPAC is proud to have been able to provide for him a night to remember.

HELPFUL HANDS...AND A GOOD EAR



She grew up touring overseas in a military family and pursued acting and stage management. He came from a mix of inner city and small town in Minnesota, found mentorship in high school, and became a respected sound engineer. Their meeting on a national tour brought them both professionally to NJPAC and grew to a successful marriage.

She is **Ginny Bowers Coleman** who, for the last several years has been NJPAC's Director of Volunteer Services. He is **Paul Allshouse**, currently the Arts Center's Head of Audio.

A veteran of the Signature Theater Company, Arts Power, Caroline's Comedy Club and a collection of national tours, Ginny served two stints in NJPAC's Production Department before moving to Volunteer Services (while awaiting their first son). Paul toured for six years with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater,

and the national tour of *Beauty and the Beast*, a stint with Hunter College, and a trial-by-fire internship at the Santa Fe Opera House are among the highlights of his resume.

Paul is responsible for all of the amplified sound coming from the stages at NJPAC. So that means he oversees the sound quality for any instruments, speaking, and sound effects in Prudential Hall, the Victoria Theater, The Chase Room and any ancillary spaces. He also supervises systems maintenance and design. "I'm the guy who sits in the audience at the console and makes sure the show sounds good," he says.


Part of his job is to work with visiting engineers and production staff to share his knowledge of NJPAC's spaces to ensure the best quality sound. He has won compliments and accolades from the staffs of such diverse artists as Keith Jarrett to Paul Simon. The *America's Got Talent* front of house engineer was impressed at how wonderful and natural Prudential Hall came across on national television.

A large part of Ginny's portfolio is to respond daily (sometimes at a minute's notice) to requests for administrative assistance; representation for NJPAC at festivals, malls, and varied events;

program monitors; tour guides; envelope stuffers; greeters; editors; and a list that grows seemingly every day. For special events, such as the Dodge Poetry Festival, *Sounds of the City* and the Young Artist Talent Search Auditions, among others, Ginny can mobilize dozens of volunteers, assigning them to myriad tasks with precision and maximum effectiveness. All while being a friend, sometime-therapist, and empathetic ear to staff and volunteers alike.

Ginny is most proud of the flexibility of her department and volunteers. "We are using an increasing number of volunteers responding to an ever-growing set of needs. It is great to be able to adapt to the institution's evolution, while keeping the volunteers active and engaged.

Ginny and Paul agree that the best thing about NJPAC is the people, including both staff and volunteers. "They are the heart of NJPAC," said Ginny. "The diversity of people and experiences has created an organization that really cares about what we do and what this organization stands for."

Next time you see a smiling volunteer or marvel at how good NJPAC sounds, you'll know that these two NJPAC professionals are on the job to make your Arts Center experience a memorable one. 



Schary Cole has always been a hard worker. Friendly, efficient, the kind of person you go to when you need a job to be done and done well.

As Director of Development Operations, Schary oversees all of the administrative functions of the Development Department, with the membership, research and database

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

divisions reporting directly to her.

Coming to NJPAC in 1997, Schary started out in outbound sales, calling people to try to get them to buy subscriptions for NJPAC performances. She later worked in the box office, became Assistant Ticket Services Manager, then moved on to head up Group Sales, finally landing in the Development Department overseeing membership activities before taking on her current duties.

Growing up in Lakewood, Schary learned to play piano and guitar and took dance lessons, so the arts were a big part of her formative years. She says she still remembers that Opening Night at NJPAC brought tears to her eyes and cites performances by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and Sarah Brightman among her favorite NJPAC moments.

“And all those yellow schoolbuses that come to our schooltime performances,”

she says. “It’s great to see those kids exposed to the arts like I was. The arts give you a broader perspective on life. I don’t know if there is any other thing that sparks the imagination and transports you with such transformative power like the arts do.”

Schary learned a lot about perspective over the last couple of years. A late stage breast cancer survivor, she says her recovery has been about “not having a choice but to get through it—that’s my nature.” She confesses that her attitude about life in general has changed. “I don’t take things quite so seriously anymore. I don’t sweat the small stuff.”

She believes the message she’s gotten is pretty simple. “Just when you think you can’t take it anymore, God or whomever it is you believe in, reveals your real strength. Don’t give up. All dreams don’t come true, but so what, dream something else...”

Perspective indeed. ●

A STAR IN THE MAKING

Given it was her first audition ever, things turned out pretty well for **Porche Hardy**. The Newark Arts High vocal student came to NJPAC in 2004 to audition for *The Start-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts*. Her expectations were low. “I wasn’t going to come because I thought all my friends who sang better than me were going to win,” she said.

But, win she did. And the \$20,000 scholarship allowed the mezzo-soprano to attend and graduate from Rutgers University.

Today, Porche is a member of NJPAC’s Arts Education staff, serving as Associate Director of Arts Training where she now manages the program she came through. She returned to NJPAC in July after taking a year off to attend the William Esper Studio where she studied the Meisner acting technique. Previously, she was an intern in the programming and arts education department and

later Program Coordinator managing the *Young Artist Institute* and *Summer Youth Performance Workshop*, both of which she supervises today.

Even with all her professional studies and work, Porche cites her performance in the NJPAC/New Jersey Youth Theater production of *Ragtime* as her best stage experience. “Any other program or show I’ve done after that, I knew I was better prepared because of what I learned here,” she said. “I knew what I needed to know after that program.”

And now she gets to share that with eager young students in the NJPAC arts education program with similar aspirations. “I sat down the other day with two Arts High students and told them not to count themselves out before they even know what they can become,” she said. “I try to tell them my story in a fun and relatable way so that NJPAC and the professional performing arts world don’t sound so exotic or out of reach.”

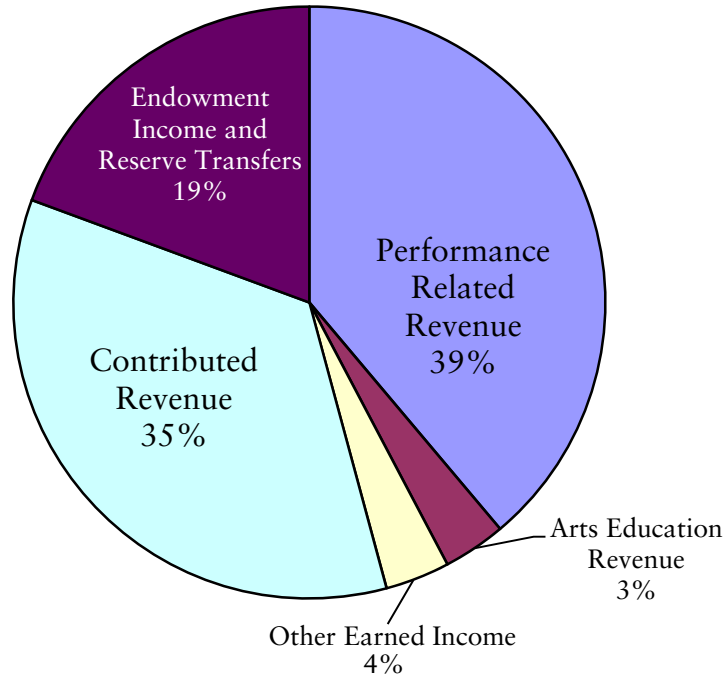


“NJPAC has meant open doors for me,” she said. “If I had not taken that step on stage, I don’t know where I would have been. The connections and networking and mentorship have been life-changing. When I was in high school, my plan was to work at NJPAC. I feel my life’s purpose is to help the next one get to where they need to be. Circles of life.”

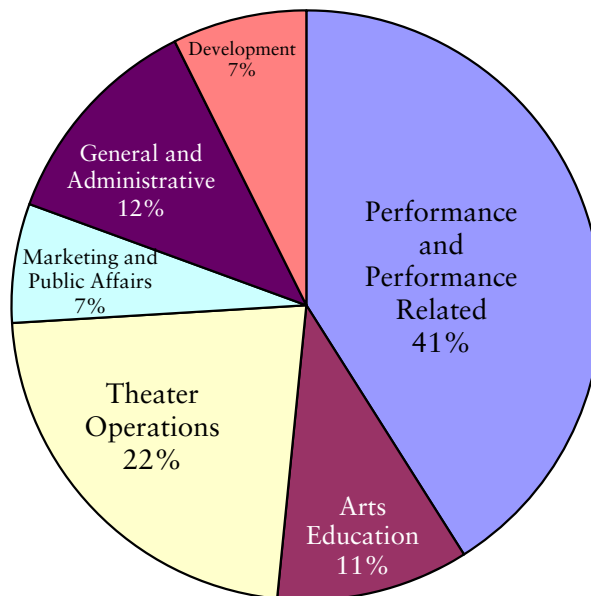
Porche’s own aspirations include stage, film, television and commercials. A couple of minutes with her and you have no doubt she’ll achieve her dreams. In the meantime, she’s at NJPAC, helping others achieve theirs. ●

THE BUDGET PICTURE

Operating Income \$27.3 million



Operating Expenses \$27.3 million



NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER CORPORATION

Consolidated Balance Sheets June 30, 2012 and 2011

Assets	2012	2011
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 162,663	\$ 300,101
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts	1,152,769	989,089
Contributions and grants receivable, net	10,058,105	13,718,680
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,001,025	701,504
Investments	62,062,147	66,032,496
Property and equipment, net	127,828,059	131,204,550
Total assets	<u>\$ 202,264,768</u>	<u>\$ 212,946,420</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 3,577,707	\$ 3,802,062
Advance ticket sales and other deferred revenue	2,357,531	2,094,151
Loans payable	7,372,904	5,779,172
Other liabilities	390,412	425,570
Total liabilities	<u>13,698,554</u>	<u>12,100,955</u>
Commitments and contingencies		
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Designated for special purposes, including net investment in property and equipment	115,705,994	124,338,621
Designated for operations	(773,967)	(773,967)
Total unrestricted	<u>114,932,027</u>	<u>123,564,654</u>
Temporarily restricted	10,749,811	14,117,756
Permanently restricted – endowment	62,884,376	63,163,055
Total net assets	<u>188,566,214</u>	<u>200,845,465</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 202,264,768</u>	<u>\$ 212,946,420</u>

NJPAC LEADERSHIP



William J. Marino
Chairman



John Schreiber
President and CEO



Marc E. Berson
Treasurer



Steven M. Goldman,
Esq.
Assistant Treasurer



Michael R. Griffinger,
Esq.
Secretary



Donald A. Robinson,
Esq.
Assistant Secretary



Raymond G. Chambers
Founding Chairman



Arthur F. Ryan
Chairman Emeritus



Lawrence E. Bathgate II, Esq.



Brian Bedol



Allen I. Bildner



James L. Bildner



Ann Dully Borowiec



Percy Chubb III



J. Fletcher Creamer,
Jr.



Pat A. DiFilippo



Brendan P. Dougher



Patrick C. Dunican,
Esq.



Anne Evans
Estabrook



Gregg N. Gerkin



Lucia DiNapoli
Gibbons



Christine Gilfillan



Savion Glover



Ronnie Goldberg



Steven E. Gross, Esq.



N. Lynne Hughes,
Esq.



Judith Jamison



The Hon.
Thomas H. Kean



Ralph A. LaRossa



Leonard Lieberman



Ann M. Limberg



A. Michael Lipper,
CFA



Marc H. Morial



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*** 20+ years
*** 15+ years
** 10+ years
* 5+ years

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If you would like more information about particular types of gifts or how they can be made, please write or call Peter H. Hansen, Vice President of Development, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, One Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102. Phone: 973-642-8989. E-mail: phansen@njpac.org.

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Report to the Community is compiled by the NJPAC Public Affairs Department: Jeffrey Norman, former Vice President, Public Affairs; Josh Balber, Senior Director, Public Affairs; Ginny Bowers Coleman, Director, Office of Volunteer Services; Pamela Chisena, Administrative Manager; Jerome H. Enis, Herbert George Associates, Consultant.

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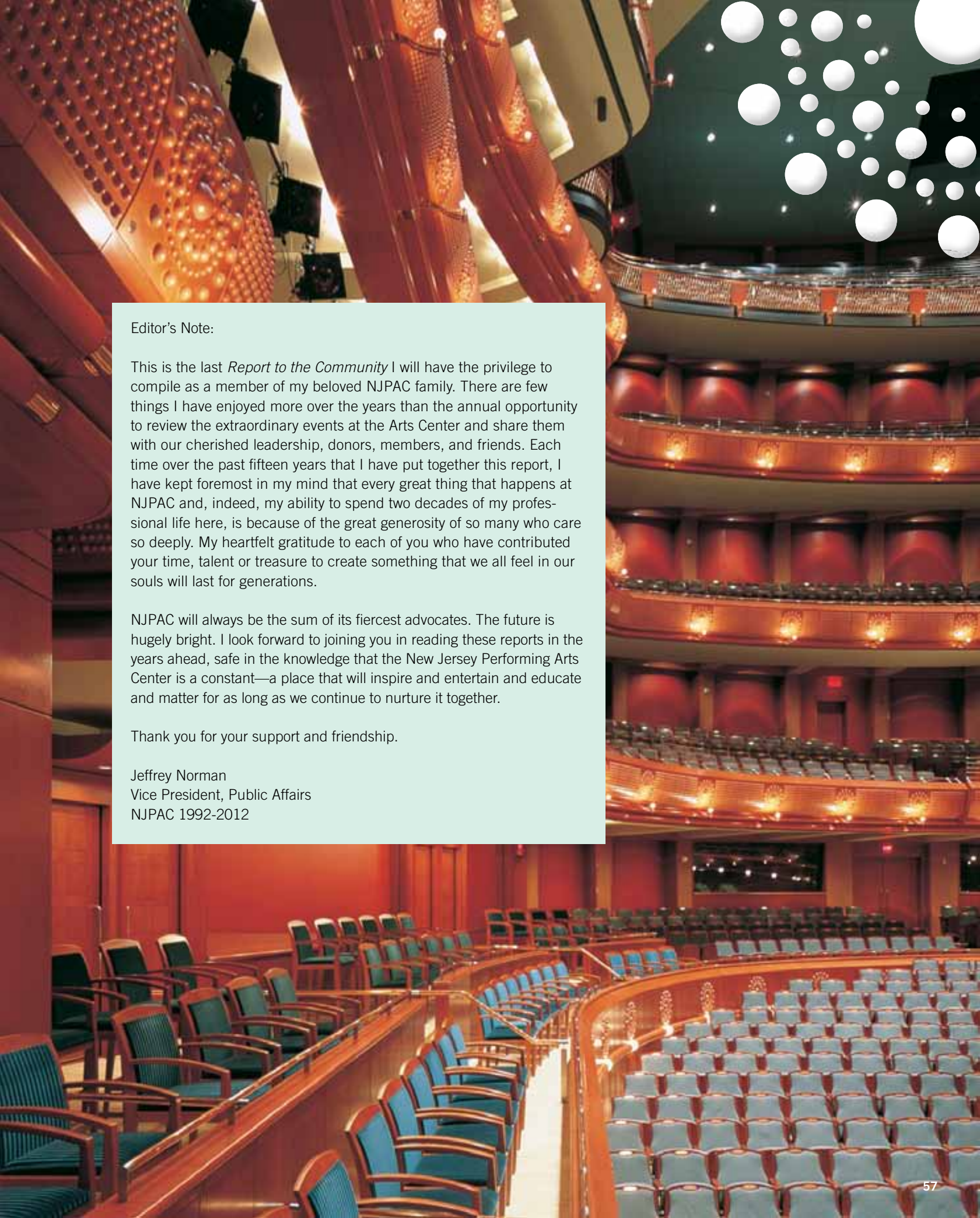
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The background of the page is a photograph of a large, ornate theater. The theater has multiple tiers of seating, with the seats in the foreground being blue. The walls and ceiling are decorated with intricate, glowing patterns. In the top right corner, there are several white circles of varying sizes, resembling bubbles or stars.

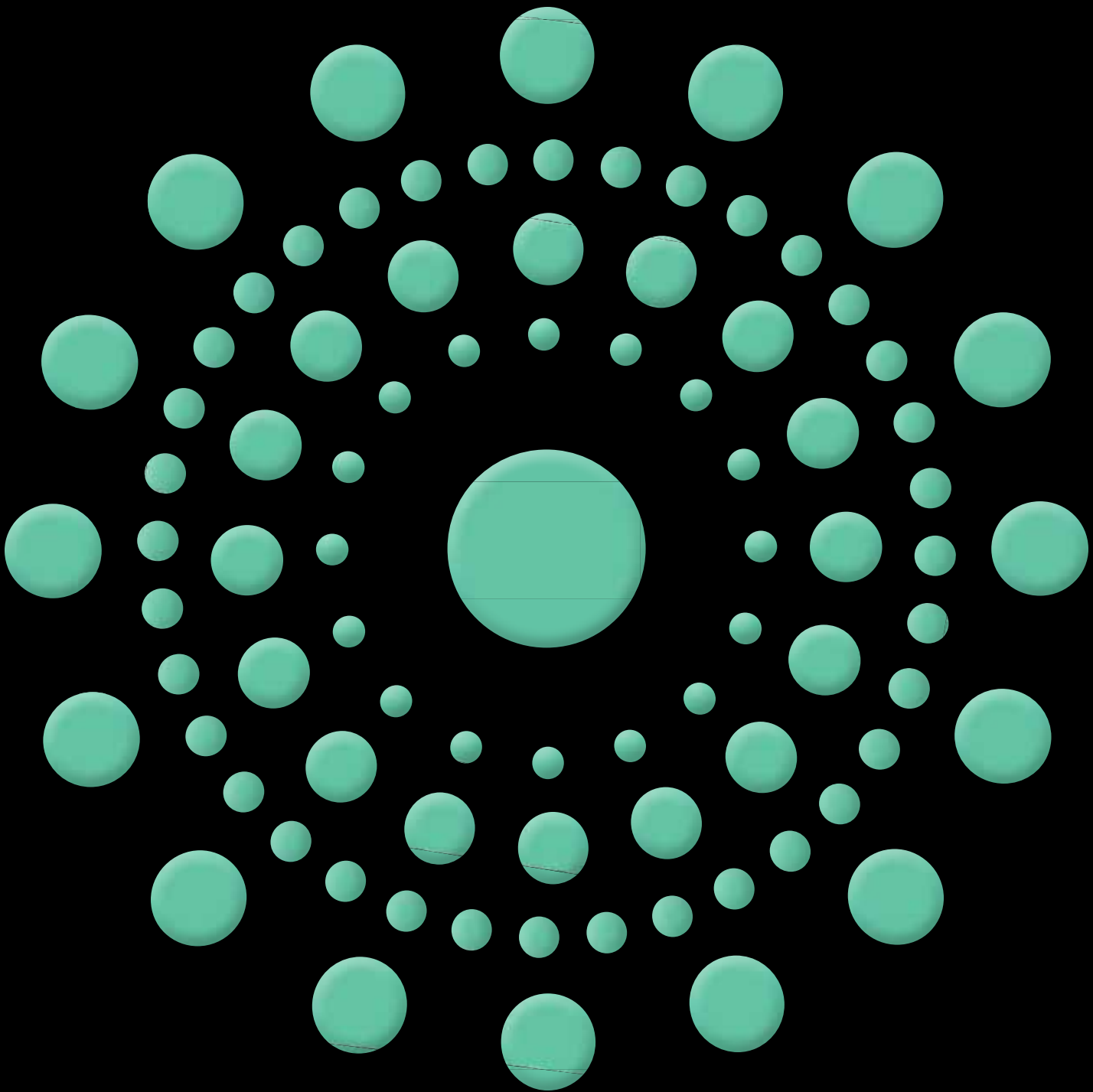
Editor's Note:

This is the last *Report to the Community* I will have the privilege to compile as a member of my beloved NJPAC family. There are few things I have enjoyed more over the years than the annual opportunity to review the extraordinary events at the Arts Center and share them with our cherished leadership, donors, members, and friends. Each time over the past fifteen years that I have put together this report, I have kept foremost in my mind that every great thing that happens at NJPAC and, indeed, my ability to spend two decades of my professional life here, is because of the great generosity of so many who care so deeply. My heartfelt gratitude to each of you who have contributed your time, talent or treasure to create something that we all feel in our souls will last for generations.

NJPAC will always be the sum of its fiercest advocates. The future is hugely bright. I look forward to joining you in reading these reports in the years ahead, safe in the knowledge that the New Jersey Performing Arts Center is a constant—a place that will inspire and entertain and educate and matter for as long as we continue to nurture it together.

Thank you for your support and friendship.

Jeffrey Norman
Vice President, Public Affairs
NJPAC 1992-2012



NJPAC

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER