



# #sisterhoodforgood

## A Newsletter of Inspiration from Women@NJPAC

To bring all of us closer together, and to share more widely the remarkable work that the members of Women@NJPAC are doing in their communities, we're sending you this newsletter that will offer you a snapshot of the work our #sisterhoodforgood is undertaking.

### a new season



Hope you all enjoyed those long, beautiful summer days! It's great to have time to renew and recharge — so we can dive into what's next with energy and purpose! And there's so much for Women@NJPAC to look forward to as we expand our Sisterhood for Good's impact and continue to foster deep connections between

our members, our community and the next generation. It's the incredible mix of women in our organization that makes it so special and so effective, and we want to keep building our fascinating, diverse, powerful cohort. When we work together, we multiply our ability to deliver "arts for good."

So this year we'll be bringing back our **Women Leaders @ Work** conversation series, to share the wisdom of our members in the business community, and will start an evening-hours networking reception later in the season. And we're expanding **Gathering of Givers** — our annual salute to activists and philanthropists on International Women's Day — into a larger gathering featuring women leaders in many fields, leadership training workshops and sources of inspiration for students and young women as well. Much more about that to come! We also continue to support the ArtsXChange program, which produces free arts programming in the South Ward, and the Arts & Well-Being initiative which harnesses the power of the arts to enhance health and well-being.

And of course, our biggest event of the year, the **Spotlight Gala**, is right around the corner! Keep an eye on your inbox for invitations to all these events and more as this exciting new season begins.

Stay well and connected,



Faith Taylor  
President, Women@NJPAC

### women @ north to shore



With a little inspiration from **Governor Phil Murphy** and **First Lady Tammy Murphy**, NJPAC embarked on a new initiative this past June: the **North to Shore Festival**, a three-weekend, three-city festival of arts and technology that brought more than 300 performances, workshops, conversations and

more to Atlantic City, Asbury Park and Newark. And so much of the excitement of the Festival, which drew hundreds of thousands of visitors, was focused on the women who took the stage! Pop superstar and Jersey girl **Halsey** raised the roof of Prudential Hall with a show of her hits reorchestrated to be played with a string ensemble. (In addition to talking about how meaningful both New Jersey and NJPAC were to her during the concert, **Halsey** warmed our hearts by releasing photos of her rehearsing at the hall **with her toddler in her arms!**) Other Festival's leading ladies included **Alanis Morissette**, **Jazmine Sullivan**, **Marisa Monte**, **Demi Lovato** and **Natalie Merchant**. Women@NJPAC President **Faith Taylor** was featured at a **TechUnited** conference event featuring executive changemakers, where she talked about her years-long crusade to develop Environmental Social Governance policies at Wyndham Worldwide. TechUnited also honored Faith as a Catalyst Award winner for her work empowering communities in the fields of the arts, climate change and human rights. And to top it all off, Women@NJPAC hosted a cocktail hour during the conference, in the Ryan Gallery, overlooking all the excitement happening in Newark during the *North to Shore Festival*!

### save the date!

- Last year, our Ronnie Goldberg Award winner and unstoppable two-time cancer survivor **Deborah Q. Belfatto** launched **Let's Talk**, a full-day women's health and wellness conference at NJPAC, which included conversations with doctors, information about exercise, advice on maintaining mental health, a little yoga, matcha tea stations and a lot of positive energy. The gathering was such a success that Deborah made it an annual occurrence. This year's *Let's Talk* conference will be held on **Oct 23**, starting at 8:30AM. **Tickets**, \$75, are available now, and all women are invited to attend and spend a day focused on their own health and well-being.
- Make sure to put this one on your calendar: Our **Women@NJPAC Annual Meeting and Leading Ladies panel discussion** is set for **Dec 6**, from 9 – 11AM. Speakers and topics are still being determined, but this yearly gathering of our sisterhood is always inspiring and uplifting — and a fabulous opportunity to network and expand your circle!

### our big night



We call it "the party of the year," and it always is! You don't want to miss the NJPAC **Spotlight Gala**, which brings together our members and so many people from our community — artists, activists, philanthropists, executives and many more. This year the Gala will be held on **Sat, Sep 30**, starting at 5:30PM with

cocktails and continuing with dinner, dancing and a magnificent performance honoring one of Newark's icons, the great Sarah Vaughan!

The *Gala* concert will be one of our best ever, as the first two winners of NJPAC's **Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition**, **Jazzmeia Horn** and **Cyrille Aimée**, will pay tribute to the Divine One. R&B crooner **Gregory Porter** and *The Voice* and *American Idol* finalist **Wé Aní** will join them, as will our NJPAC Jazz Advisor **Christian McBride** and his all-star band. Plus, we'll be honoring all our friends at **Merck** with the Founders Award for their three decades of support for the Arts Center. If you've been to the *Gala* before, you already know how much fun and inspiration this night offers. If you haven't yet — make this the year! **Tickets** start at \$1,500.

### member spotlight



NJPAC Board member and Women@NJPAC Trustee **Mindy Cohen** is not only co-chairing the *Spotlight Gala* for a record fifth time this year — "I feel like it's my baby, it's hard not to be involved in it," she says — she's also spent decades advancing the arts in New Jersey, both professionally and as a volunteer

leader. A co-founder of the influential public relations and events firm Evergreen Partners, Mindy worked as a consultant for both NJPAC and the New Jersey Symphony and served on the Board of WBGO. As a consultant, she helped coordinate the *Spring Luncheon & Auction* and the *Gala* for NJPAC for decades — and when she retired, she joined the Women@NJPAC and the NJPAC Boards. "NJPAC was always my favorite client, I knew I couldn't give it up. My husband knew when he married me, he was marrying NJPAC as well," Mindy says. The *Gala* is "so much a family event in a lot of ways, because so many people who've known each other for so many years always come, and it's wonderful to celebrate with them." On top of all that, this year Mindy and her husband **David Bershad** made a \$1 million gift to the NJPAC Capital Campaign; the Arts Center's box office will be renamed in their honor, in recognition of their philanthropy.

**"We wanted to do something that would make a real difference — and maybe inspire others to do the same," Mindy says.** We salute this indefatigable and generous member of our sisterhood!

### membership



Women@NJPAC is missing something. You! We invite you to **join NJPAC as a Member** — which automatically makes you a member of **Women@NJPAC** as well. As part of the Arts Center's family, you'll have early access to ticket sales, get discounts at Newark restaurants including NJPAC's own **NICO Kitchen +**

**Bar**, discounts to selected shows and more. Plus, you'll hear about all of Women@NJPAC's special events. And your Membership gift will help keep our Arts Education and Community Engagement programs going strong.

### #sisterhoodforgood

If you or a woman you know is making a difference in any way, big or small, we want to hear about it! Use the hashtag #SisterhoodForGood on social media and tag Women@NJPAC. Or reply to this email and share your story!



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