

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA
PRESS OFFICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 1, 2005

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Calling All Artists!

SCRANTON, PA---The Lackawanna County Council on the Arts in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts are proud to announce the availability of grants for artists and arts organizations in Lackawanna County. Lackawanna County is the first county in Pennsylvania to officially set up a Department on Education and Culture. Lackawanna County Majority Commissioners A.J. Munchak and Robert C. Cordaro realize the importance and the value of the arts and culture in this area.

“The Lackawanna County Majority Commissioners are very excited to make available the very first grant application for funding to artists, arts organizations and organizations doing projects with artists in the County,” said Regina Peters, Executive Director of the Council on Education and Culture.

“Commissioner Robert Cordaro championed the idea of supporting and promoting the arts to better the quality of life as well as to enhance the economic health of the region,” added Peters.

The Lackawanna County Majority Commissioners instituted a Council for the Arts to assist the community in furthering this mission as well as develop a pool of funding to encourage the creative talents of the many artists that live and work in the County.

“It was extremely important to demonstrate a commitment to our cultural and

educational institutions, as well as the artistic community that brings life to this area. We hope the rest of the Commonwealth will see the fruits of our investment and follow suit. It is our belief that new jobs and business investment opportunities will naturally follow our efforts,” stated Commissioner Robert C. Cordaro.

“The Scranton Area Foundation is celebrating its fifth year as a local partner of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in distributing more than 212,500 in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties through The Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts program,” said Jeanne Bovard, Director of the Scranton Area Foundation.

“We are honored and delighted to be a part of Lackawanna County’s strong and proven effort to sustain the arts in Pennsylvania. Also, the Scranton Area Foundation is enjoying working with the County’s Council on the Arts in their new program and anticipate very positive results,” added Bovard.

Applications for the 2005 Lackawanna County Arts and Cultural Grants and Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts are now available. For Lackawanna County Grants apply online @lackawannacounty.org or call Regina Peters, Executive Director of the Council on Education and Culture at 570-963-6800.