

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA**

**PRESS OFFICE**

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**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jenine J. Ikeler, 963-6800 ext. 1854

Jillian Kohanski, 963-6800 ext. 1814

**County Honors Arts and Cultural Grant Recipients**

**SCRANTON, PA---**Lackawanna County Majority Commissioners and the Lackawanna County Council on the Arts were joined by local artists and business owners today, Thursday, June 30, 2005, at a lively awards celebration held at the Trolley Museum, Scranton, to honor the grant recipients of the 2005 Lackawanna County Arts and Cultural Grant.

The grants were conceived for artists, arts organizations, and non-profit organizations conducting arts activities in Lackawanna 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 these institutions,” said Commissioner Robert C. Cordaro.

The successful grant applicants were chosen by a well credentialed panel of reviewers. After much deliberation and discussion, the panel individually scored each application as to how well the applicant met the grant criteria.

“Residents of Lackawanna County can be assured that their tax dollars are being spent on exemplary arts programs and projects. The Commissioners are to be congratulated on serving as an example of outstanding leadership to the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” said Dr. Catherine Richmond Cullen, Chair of the Lackawanna County Council on the Arts.

“The arts evoke emotion. After reading the applications submitted for the grant, I felt great. I marveled at the quality, variety and uniqueness of the projects,” stated Regina Peters, Executive Director of the Department on Education and Culture.

The Lackawanna Council on the Arts was able to fully fund 17 of the grants submitted and made partial grant award to 2 applicants.

“The projects were not only artistically excellent, but also collaborative with the community. I am proud that the Lackawanna County Council on the Arts awards totaling over \$49,000 granted to talented artists living in our midst will showcase these innovative art

projects,” continued Peters.

The grants projects will begin as early as July 1 and will continue through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Look for some of these exciting events coming soon to your own backyard!

*Lackawanna County is the first county in the state to officially establish a Department of Education and Culture. One of the functions of the department is to direct the 1-mill education and culture fee the Board of Commissioners issued in December 2004. The dedicated fee is expected to generate more than \$1 million in 2005.*

## **Arts & Cultural Grants Awarded**

**June 14, 2005**

### **Grants Funded:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Project</u>
1. Richard Wargo	\$3,000	Composition & performance of an opera
2. Ballet Theatre	\$3,000	Presentation of the “Nutcracker” Ballet
3. John Mikulak	\$3,000	Film on Polka Star Jan Lewan
4. U. of Scranton	\$3,000	Exhibition “History of Scranton” at Hope Horn Gallery
5. Rebecca Marshall	\$3,000	Documentary film on Jason Miller
6. Devora Namm	\$3,000	Creation & presentation of a musical
7. N. Pocono Cultural Soc.	\$ 825	Quilt exhibit at Moscow Country Fair
8. Lexington Entertainment	\$3,000	A 5 concert series to underserved areas of county
9. First Night Scranton	\$3,000	Scranton Tomorrow
10. Scranton Public Theatre	\$3,000	19 <sup>th</sup> Annual Jason Miller Festival at McDade and Nay Aug
11. PA Jazz Alliance	\$3,000	Scranton Jazz Festival at Hanlon’s Grove
12. Claire Marcus	\$2,510	Textile art workshops for youth at Merli-Sarnoski Park
13. Jennifer Kaucher	\$3,000	Illustrated book of poetry with Lacka.
Historical Society.		
14. TNT	\$3,000	Support for 9 radio plays by The Northeast Theater
15. La Festa Italiana	\$3,000	Support for artistic performances at La Festa
16. Catholic Choral Society	\$1,000	Support for “Generations Sing” Choral Music
17. Mary Lou Chiberka	\$3,000	Large painting of Riverfest to be donated to Central NJ RR

- 18.K.K. Gordon            \$1,500            Produce and direct an original play with NEPTA
19. \_\_\_\_\_Scranton Musicians Local \$1,500            Senior center musical performances

**Total grant dollars: \$49,335**

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