

LACKAWANNA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

PRESS OFFICE

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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 31st, 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.