



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Arts and History Grant Awards Made By State For Hunterdon County

The Hunterdon County Cultural Heritage Commission has announced that grants totaling nearly \$90,000 have been awarded for 2018 to Hunterdon County by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

The State Council on the Arts' Local Arts Program award of \$66,464 will be used to support vibrant local arts programs and activities such as Hunterdon County World Music Day, Salsa Night, Central Jersey Jazz Festival, and Art Goes to School, music workshops for senior residence homes, along with other programs.

"The variety and diversity of activities presented by local grant recipients extends across several different disciplines including theater, music, musical theater, dance, and arts education to thousands of individuals, geographically across the entire county," Gayle Maher, Chairman of the Hunterdon County Commission stated.

The state Historical Commission's grant to Hunterdon County for 2018 is \$22,490.

Freeholder Suzanne Lagay, the Board's liaison to the Commission, said, "These grant funds enhance arts and history programs and services at the local level. They benefit County residents directly through the enhancement of quality of life and investment in the local economy. Our grants team is to be commended for their work."

Carrie Fellows, Executive Director of the County Cultural and Heritage Commission, noted, "The grant funding partnerships create the opportunity for arts, cultural, and historic organizations to leverage additional funding through other in-kind and cash donations, extending the Commission's reach."

The County's regrant programs provide opportunities for smaller organizations, with budgets under \$100,000 and small or all-volunteer staffs, to compete for grant funds against their peers, rather than in a statewide pool against larger organizations with professional staff.

The State Arts Council and the State Historical Commission receive funding through the Hotel/Motel Occupancy Fee, which established a dedicated revenue source to support arts, history, and tourism in 2003. Additionally, the Arts Council receives annual competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).