

2016 OUTSTANDING ARTS ADVOCATE AWARD

Morristown Mayor Timothy Dougherty

A visionary political leader now in his second term as Morristown's Mayor, Tim Dougherty is a proponent of "Smart Growth," balancing the character of an area with the impact of new projects on the environment. He is also a powerful advocate for the arts in our community.

A trained professional engineer with extensive municipal and regional governmental experience, Dougherty is that rare municipal leader who marries a keen technical/political understanding with a concern for the quality of life in the larger community.

We are honoring him today because of his exceptional advocacy on behalf of the arts. He is a staunch supporter of the Creative Placemaking initiative, Meet Me in Morristown. Launched by Morris Arts in collaboration with the Morristown Partnership, it brings the arts to the Morristown business district on the last Thursdays of May-August. Additionally, he is heavily involved with the annual Morristown Blues and Jazz Festival, which routinely attracts over 1,000 enthusiastic fans to the center of Morristown in August.

And, recently, Mayor Dougherty has done something even more remarkable for the arts: he introduced an initiative called Percent for Art whereby one percent of capital costs up to \$100,000 for new redevelopment projects will be designated for public art on, or adjacent to, the property being developed. This is part of a larger effort by the mayor's office to maintain Morristown's thriving economic development area while maintaining the rich culture of the town. "Morristown is not just about development," Mayor Dougherty has said on several occasions. "It is a top priority for us to improve Morristown's existing environment and infrastructure in order to elevate the overall quality of life for all of its citizens. This Percent for Art program adds to that mission and our overall vision to become the most welcoming, beautiful, healthy, resilient, and sustainable place to live, work, and play in New Jersey." The first project to be included is a mixed-use development at Market and Bank streets to be built by Hampshire Companies. Philadelphia-based Fox Rothschild law firm, which is relocating its Morristown offices, has already signed a lease for the property. The deal was approved at the Morristown Redevelopment Council Meeting. "Morristown has been a leader in New Jersey by successfully creating a vibrant downtown and now will be recognized as a model for its commitment to

cultivating a climate rich in arts and culture,” said Kadie Dempsey, Morris Arts’ Director of Arts in Community /Creative Placemaking. “Morristown joins some of the great American towns and cities that understand on a deep level how arts and culture increase livability, and economic development which in turn creates safe and interesting communities.” Similar Percent for Art programs have been implemented on the state level and in large cities, but Morristown will be among the first municipalities in New Jersey to institute the principle. Town officials believe Morristown’s plan will serve as a model for other municipalities.

Therefore, for his understanding and promotion of the arts as a core element of a successful community and for his leadership in implementing the groundbreaking Percent for Art program, thus providing a fiscal mechanism to insure funding for public art, Morris Arts is delighted to award the 2016 Outstanding Arts Advocacy Award to Morristown’s Mayor Timothy Dougherty.

Will Mayor Dougherty please come up to accept the award?
March 30, 2016.