To support Morris Arts:
How to get involved...

- Consider an in-kind gift. Now is a great time to share your technical or professional expertise or items that you think might be useful to Morris Arts.
- Celebrate holidays and milestones with a tribute gift to Morris Arts. A donation to Morris Arts is the perfect gift to for a loved one committed to creativity.
- Check to see whether your company has a matching gift program. Some companies will match the donations or value of volunteer time given by their employees.
- Send us your e-mail address! We value sustainability and community – help us communicate with you more effectively as we all work to build a greener, more creative world. To sign up, visit www.morrisarts.org.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For more information contact Gina Moran, Morris Arts Director of Development, at gimoran@morrisarts.org or (973) 285-5115, ext. 13.

Thanks to our very generous recent funders whose support makes our work possible: Merrill G. & Emilia E. Hastings Foundation; investors Foundation Inc., F.M. Kirby Foundation; William E. Simon Foundation; and the Su Pau Fund.

Addressing Morris Arts’ traditional Spring and Summer events:
Please check our website www.morrisarts.org, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for the latest updates.

For 10 years, Music Beyond Borders, a collaboration between Morris Arts and Mayo Performing Arts Center, has offered this summer series of free outdoor programs of world music and dance...celebrating diversity and bringing a taste of cultures from six continents to lunchtimes on the Morristown Green. Although the coronavirus prevents us from presenting Music Beyond Borders this summer, our website’s homepage will include a weekly feature revisiting these performances from cultures around the world. See and hear music and dance from Africa, South America, Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, Native American cultures, the Middle East, Central America, Indonesia, the South Pacific, the Caribbean and Australia. Click HERE each week to join us on this trip down memory lane and enjoy the delights of Music Beyond Borders.

Morris Arts’ reschedules 12th annual Great Conversations from April to October 8th, 2020. This will be a virtual event. Stay tuned to www.morrisarts.org for details as they become available.

Morris Arts’ 27th annual Giralda Music & Arts Festival postponed (from June 28th)
Please check in with us at www.morrisarts.org for details as they become available.

Meet Me in Morristown
Our popular summer street arts scene is also postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic.

Helping the Arts and our Community through Our Website and Social Media:
Our website’s homepage and social media have also become portals to regularly updated resources, workshops, connections and critical tools for artists/arts organizations and for our community. Please check these sites weekly for new resources, tools, features and opportunities.

Arts in Education Virtual Learning Resource Center
At https://cutt.ly/5LyXa0ye, this portal provides a comprehensive of information to assist teachers, students and families. We make these offerings available with the hope of forming partnerships with not only K-12 schools and families, but also social service agencies and community organizations committed to youth education.

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Arts and Organizations Online Resources
At https://cutt.ly/5LyXa0yq, the Morris Arts Online Resource Center for Artists offers a compilation of helpful tools for artists and arts organizations impacted by COVID-19. Resources include online workshops, webinars, virtual performances, art classes, grants and opportunities to serve our community. Morris Arts is dedicated to continuing to serve the public interest which is why we are quickly adapting our programs and services to meet this moment.

Teaching Artist Workshop
On May 14, Morris Arts held an online workshop entitled Taking Your Program from Live to Live Stream. Attracting a capacity crowd, the workshop addressed the pandemic’s enormous pressures on artists to adapt to a new and rapidly-changing digital reality. The workshop provided an overview of online tools and ways to shift live content into online content. The workshop addressed the pandemic’s enormous pressures on artists to adapt to a new and rapidly-changing digital reality. The workshop provided an overview of online tools and ways to shift live content into online content. The workshop addressed the pandemic’s enormous pressures on artists to adapt to a new and rapidly-changing digital reality. The workshop provided an overview of online tools and ways to shift live content into online content. The workshop addressed the pandemic’s enormous pressures on artists to adapt to a new and rapidly-changing digital reality. The workshop provided an overview of online tools and ways to shift live content into online content.
Our Art Galleries in the time of Covid-19:

Begun on April 17th, this effort involves our entire staff and has spotlighted the breadth and depth of our work by sharing videos, telling our stories and spotlighting new online resources in arts education and for artists and arts organizations. Additionally, we have invited grantors, scholarship winners, teaching artists, gallery curators, and performing artists to directly share their Morris Arts experiences via personal videos, underscoring how Morris Arts has impacted their work and fulfilled its mission of building community through the arts.

Chelsea Friedlander, operatic soprano and Morris Arts star (and Scholarship Winner)

Along with Morris Arts’ mission of building community through the arts, we take pride in our role of recognizing, acknowledging, and supporting the next generation of performing and visual artists. Morris Arts would like you to meet Chelsea Friedlander, soprano and opera singer who won Morris Arts’ prestigious Eugenie V. Colombo Scholarship in 2006. Awarded to high school seniors demonstrating excellence in the arts, this scholarship encouraged Chelsea in pursuit of her art education and ultimately a career in the performing arts. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music with a Masters from the Manhattan School of Music, she has performed in operas by Mozart, Bernstein, Bizet, Offenbach, Monteverdi and others and with opera companies from California to N.Y.C.

British Invasion Years band – a special success story

Click on the second photo to hear what the band’s co-founders, Robert Murdock and Lee Scott Howard, have to say about their experience with Morris Arts and see the band in action.

What better endorsement for a British Invasion Tribute band than opening for Ringo Starr? If you love classic 60’s rock, you will love this group’s note-perfect performances of music from The Beatles to The Beach Boys! Individually and collectively, they have performed with Eric Clapton, Bon Jovi, Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukeys – at the Stone Pony, on the Tonight Show and Late Night with David Letterman. They rock (and pack!) the house every time.

The band formed in 1997 as the Robert Murdock Band, blending classic 60’s British and American rock, and committed to researching and performing the most faithful “covers” of that iconic repertoire. Twelve years ago (2008), Morris Arts’ spotted their talent and presented them the Midday Music on the Green summer series, recommended them for other gigs and booked them multiple times for First Night Morris County performances at the Mayo Performing Arts Center. Each First Night performance drew standing-room only crowds and standing ovations! In 2011, they realized that dream of every British Invasion tribute band: opening for one of the original Beatles, Ringo Starr! They have since shared the stage with other legendary artists such as The Beach Boys, Herman’s Hermits, The Moody Blues, The Animals, The Rascals, and many more. They are a favorite agency, toured and recorded widely. In addition to their exceptional talent, what is especially wonderful about this band is their genuine appreciation for the encouragement Morris Arts provided at the early stages of their career.

Frank Vignola, Guitar Great, First Night superstar and Morris Arts friend

“Frank Vignola is one of the most extraordinary guitarists performing before the public today. Shimmering virtually has made him the guitarist of choice for many of the world’s top musicians, including Ringo Starr, Madonna, Donald Fagen, Wynton Marsalis, Tom Jobim, Paul McCartney, The Beach Boys, and many, many more. Frank is a true giant in the music world.” – Chuck Cuthbert, Internation Magazine

“For me, the standout musician in the ensemble was guitarist Frank Vignola, who can play more musically at ridiculous tempos than just about anyone I’ve heard.” – The Jazz Scene, Jason Crane, Tangiewood Jazz Festival

As a world renowned guitarist who cuts jazz, swing, gypsy jazz, classical and pop music, Vignola has performed internationally, with some of the finest musicians in the world. Morris Arts has had the privilege of presenting him – to capacity crowds – at nearly every First Night Morris event since 2009. He has also been a host at Morris Arts’ Great Conversations and performed at the Morristown Jazz & Blues Festival and other events in the area. Sharing an artist of this caliber with our community is one of the great joys of our work.

Click on Frank’s photo as he talks about his remarkable career playing with some of the world’s top musicians; Frank dazzles with The Flight of the Gumbalum: Enjoy his wonderful Tico Tico medley (spoiler alert for Led Zeppelin fans, there’s bit of “Stairway to Heaven”) – and which concludes with Frank’s own virtuoso composition, Gyromania.

Telling Our Stories through our Covid-19 Email Campaign:

Begun on April 17th, this effort involves our entire staff and has spotlighted the breadth and depth of our work by sharing videos, telling our stories and spotlighting new online resources in arts education and for artists and arts organizations. Additionally, we have invited grantors, scholarship winners, teaching artists, gallery curators, and performing artists to directly share their Morris Arts experiences via personal videos, underscoring how Morris Arts has impacted their work and fulfilled its mission of building community through the arts.

Tell Morris Arts how Morris Arts has impacted your work and fulfilled its mission of building community through the arts. Click here.
Our Art Galleries in the time of Covid-19: (continued from page 1)

The Atrium Gallery

This exhibit marks the reopening of the Atrium Gallery, showcasing the 28th annual exhibition and sale of African American Art presented by the Atrium. At present, the show has been extended at least until July and perhaps beyond. Highlighting the works of the renowned Newark artist / poet / educator, the late Jerry Gant, this annual exhibit works by 60 emerging and established African-American artists.

This year’s show also honors the memory of Art in the Atrium’s co-founder and artist / educator Victoria “Viki” Le Beaux Clark Craig who passed away December 27, 2018 and was honored by the Morris County Freeholders on Dr. Martin Luther King Day for her “three decades of service in creating and celebrating the annual Art in the Atrium exhibit of African-American art in Morris County.”

Some of the outstanding artworks on display:

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1) Bill Rehmeyer's collagraph etch-print photograph on silk, Anthropocene;
2) Ralph Haller's multimedia, Other Planet;
3) Philip Wawrzonek's oil, Daily Alleman;
4) Dean Sancesone's word and threat / Vault;
5) Andrea's oil;
6) Lici Oldham's porcelain, dichroic glass piece, Spanglery;
7) Robert Latoff's multimedia piece;
8) Janae Bullock's photograph, Daemic, Chicken & Dogs;
9) Janet Bullock's oil, Herman II.

Morris Arts’ Gallery at 14 Maple’s virtual exhibit, Vanishing Worlds

Morris Arts’ Gallery at 14 Maple installed Vanishing Worlds, its twenty-third exhibit, just before the covid shutdown. With our “virtual gallery,” the public can still see – and purchase – the beautiful works HERE. To view the show’s catalogue (including details and pricing), click HERE.

Guest curator, Yvette Lucas, selected works by nine distinguished New Jersey artists who each bring a unique perspective to the theme of Vanishing Worlds, whether confronting species extinction, last libraries of the ancient world, disappearing professions, obsolete technologies, vanishing childhood or the gradual vanishings associated with aging. All are rendered with creative, imaginative and intriguing insights that encourage the viewer to reflect on the fleeting nature of existence and the inexorable march of time.

In the hope that people will be able to safely come to the gallery and see the exhibit firsthand, the exhibit runs through April 2021. Please check our website for updates as they become available.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges support for this exhibit from:


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Morris Arts’ Grantee: Frank Vignola, Guitar Great, First Night superstar and Morris Arts friend

Frank Vignola is one of the most extraordinary guitarists performing before the public today. He has made his guitar the choice of many of the world’s top musicians, including Ringo Starr, Madonna, Donald Fagen, Wynton Marsalis, Tom Scott, Michael Cimino, the Boston Pops, the New York Pops, and guitar legend Leon Paul, who named Vignola to his “Five Most Admired Guitarists List” for the Wall Street Journal. Vignola’s jaw-dropping technique explains why the New York Times deemed him “one of the brightest...stars of the guitar”.

“There is little in this world so awe-inspiring as witnessing total mastery of a musical instrument. Like seeing Yo-Yo Ma play the cello or Picasso Domingo belt out an aria – sometimes a performer’s perfection can elevate a piece of music to heights beyond the realm of imagination. By all accounts, Frank Vignola conjures just that sort of magic with his acoustic guitar” – Matt Cauthen, Internation Magcazine

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ARTS BY THE PEOPLE - A Morris Arts Grantee

This nonprofit defines its mission thus: to establish, operate, promote, and conduct educational programs, opportunities, classes and sessions in the creative arts for the public, especially seniors and youth with a goal to empower individuals through collaborative acts of self-expression. Believing in the value of shared creative arts and the universal benefits of the arts for people of all ages and backgrounds, Arts by the People presents a diverse range of creative activities to build interest groups or generate intergenerational connections. Using the arts to bridge social divisions and strengthen understanding, collaboration and acceptance in our communities of diversity and need, their programs are run by talented teaching artists who are experts in their fields. Programs are free for participants, ensuring that the arts are available and accessible to all.

Click on the photo of Paul Rabinewitz, Executive Director of Arts by the People, to hear more about their virtual programming.
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-Send us your e-mail address! We value sustainability and community — help us communicate with you more effectively as we all work to build a greener, more creative world. To sign up, visit www.morrisarts.org.

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Morris Arts’ 37th annual Giraldá Music & Arts Festival postponed (from June 28th)

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Our popular summer street arts scene is also postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic.

The Arts in a time of Pandemic

As creative organizations and individuals cope with the impacts of this unprecedented pandemic, Morris Arts is finding ways to keep the arts, artists and arts organizations in the public eye, share critical information/resources and support the arts, artists and arts organizations through this difficult period.

Our Art Galleries in the time of Covid-19:

The Atrium Gallery reopened, then closed for the pandemic and is now available online.

After a year’s hiatus, the Atrium Gallery has reopened and done so in a spectacular fashion. Art in the Atrium (ATA), a non-profit show-casing the largest exhibit of African-American art in New Jersey, is back at the Atrium Gallery, part of the Morris County Administration & Records Building in Morristown where they have exhibited for nearly three decades.

Click on the photo of Lauren LeBeaux Craig, daughter of ATA’s co-founder, the late Viki Craig, as she tells you more about ATA and their exciting exhibit. The Atrium Gallery walls are full of the wonderful art in the new Dream With Your Eyes Open exhibit but, with the pandemic, viewing the exhibit in person is not an option. Happily, people can still see (and purchase) the vibrant artworks, virtually, at https://artintheatrium.org/shop.

(continued on page 2)