

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ARTPRIDE NEW JERSEY WELCOMES NEW BOARD OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

State's largest arts advocacy group adds leadership from across New Jersey to its robust board of industry innovators

**(BURLINGTON, NJ | August 13, 2021)** – ArtPride New Jersey, the state’s largest arts service organization, is proud to announce its slate of officers for fiscal year 2022. This group is led by Allison Larena, President & CEO of the Mayo Performing Arts Center, who was elected chair of the board of trustees. In addition, ArtPride is welcoming two new trustees: Anthony Smith, Executive Director of Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, and Heather Barberi, Executive Director of the Grunin Foundation.

The following individuals were voted in by the board of trustees as officers:

- Chair – Allison Larena, President & CEO of the Mayo Performing Arts Center
- Vice-Chair – Paul McRae, Assistant Director of New Jersey Ballet
- Vice-Chair – Noreen Scott-Garrity, Associate Director of Education at Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts
- Treasurer – Steve Steiner, Executive Director of Surflight Theatre
- Secretary – Isha Vyas, Division Head - Arts & History Program Services for County of Middlesex, Office of Culture & Heritage

These officers and trustees will provide important direction in furthering ArtPride’s mission to advance, promote, and advocate for the arts as essential to the quality of life of every citizen and to the economic vitality of the state.

“We’re grateful to Allison Larena and her fellow officers for stepping into these important leadership roles and look forward to their invaluable contributions in driving ArtPride into a bright future,” said Adam Perle, President & CEO of ArtPride. “Additionally, we’re glad to welcome our new board members to the ArtPride team. Anthony and Heather complement our board of trustees’ skills and experiences, and we are confident they will provide valuable perspectives as we continue to provide programs and services that aid our field.”

As a nonprofit organization that proudly supports New Jersey’s creative community, ArtPride is widely viewed by the field as a go-to source for research, innovative programs and services, and high-impact advocacy work.

"I am honored and excited to take on the role of chair for ArtPride, an extremely dedicated and hard-working organization," said Allison Larena. "With the fortunate addition of these respected new members of our board, we are committed to continuing the vital work of supporting the incredible arts community in New Jersey."

As part of the transition in ArtPride’s leadership, the organization formally recognized outgoing chair, Sharon Harrington, former commissioner of the New Jersey Casino Commission, at their June board meeting. The group praised Harrington’s three years as chair of the board and expressed gratitude for her steady leadership during crisis and stewardship in important advocacy successes.

A complete list of board members can be found on the ArtPride website at [www.ArtPrideNJ.org](http://www.ArtPrideNJ.org).

#### **About the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation**

The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes the value of the arts to New Jersey’s quality of life, education and economic vitality through research and a variety of programs and services. For more information about ArtPride, visit [ArtPrideNJ.org](http://ArtPrideNJ.org).