

PRESS RELEASE

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THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

TOMS RIVER – The Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, administrator of the Ocean County Teen Arts Program, announces its **31st Annual Ocean County Teen Arts Festival**, under the direction of Bobbi Krantz, Coordinator of the Festival and Director of the Arts Center at Ocean County College. Due to the renovation of the Arts and Community Center on the OCC main campus, the Festival's home for 29 years, the 2010 event will take place at various sites throughout the county.

On Friday, **March 26**, the visual art portion of the Festival will be hung at the Ocean County Artists Guild in Island Heights. **Artwork will be on display until Tuesday, April 27.** The gallery is open to the public. Interested parties can contact the Guild at 732-270-3111 or info@ocartistsguild.org for hours of operation.

On Tuesday, **April 20**, a Visual Arts and Creative Writing Reception at the Ocean County Artists Guild will honor those students whose artwork and creative writing have been "Critiqued for Excellence" and chosen to represent the county at the Teen Arts State Festival, held at Monmouth University in Long Branch on May 26 and 27. The reception commences at 7:30 p.m., with an award ceremony at 8:00 p.m.

The video portion of the Festival, which is open to the public, will take place on Tuesday, **April 13**, in the Technology Building Lecture Hall, OCC Main Campus, College Drive, Toms River, NJ. The event, under the direction of Lee Kobus, OCC Executive Director of Media and Community Programs, begins with a 10:00 a.m. workshop followed by a screening of the video submittals.

The performance aspect of the Festival will take place on Monday, **May 3**, and Tuesday, **May 4**, at Toms River High School North. At that time, students will perform in the following categories: dance, instrumental and vocal music, and theatre. All performances will be critiqued by professionals and participants will receive a written, and, in some cases, a verbal, critique of their performance. On both days, performances begin at 9:00 a.m. and run to approximately 12:30 p.m. The public is invited. All guests must sign in.

"The Teen Arts program has a long and glorious history," Krantz remarked. "It is not a contest; there are no winners or losers. Rather, it is an arts-in-education project typical to New Jersey, where every participant has an opportunity to have their work critiqued by professionals in their field. The program, which was

started over 40 years ago in Middlesex County, has grown to encompass all 21 counties.”

Funding for this program has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through grant funds administered by the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission with additional funding by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Ocean County College, and the Ocean County high schools.

For more information, contact Krantz at 732.255.0400, ext. 2098 or rkrantz@ocean.edu.