For Immediate Release

MONTCLAIR FILM

COMPLETES $2.6 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT COSTS OF BUILDING A PERMANENT HOME + HEADQUARTERS FOR YEAR-ROUND ARTS PROGRAMMING

December 11, 2018, MONTCLAIR, NJ – Montclair Film’s Founder & Chairman Bob Feinberg and President Evelyn Colbert today announced the successful completion of Montclair Film’s $2.6 million Capital Campaign, which funded the construction of The Investors Bank Film & Media Center, the organization’s home and headquarters at 505 Bloomfield Avenue in downtown Montclair, New Jersey. Featuring year-round film screenings, community events, and a robust schedule of film and media education classes and workshops, The Investors Bank Film & Media Center has transformed Montclair Film into a thriving, year-round arts organization.

Kevin Cummings, CEO of Investors Bank, spearheaded the gift of a vacant bank branch to Montclair Film in 2014, and the non-profit organization undertook the renovation process immediately, completing the project on time and on budget, and opening the building’s doors in April of 2017. The Capital Campaign raised funds to cover the costs of the renovation project.

“We thought that having our own building would be transformative, not only for Montclair Film but for the many audiences we serve,” said Bob Feinberg, Founder and Chairman of Montclair Film. “That’s turned out to be true! With the Investors Bank Film & Media Center, we have a home for all the students who participate in our classes, for all the film lovers who attend screenings in Cinema 505, for our year-round administrative staff, and for everyone who attends a party, a panel discussion or a live theatrical event in our flexible, multipurpose space.”

The organization’s fundraising campaign, co-chaired by Montclair residents Tracy Higgins and James Leitner, and Lynn and Sengal Selassie, kicked off in December 2015. Montclair Film reached its goal thanks to the leadership of the committee chairs and the incredibly generous support from 450 donors from across Montclair, New Jersey, the Tri-State area, and beyond.
The organization’s Capital Campaign Committee featured volunteers who were critical to the campaign's success, especially Evelyn Colbert, Warren Ross, Matt Iversen, Shelley Phillips, and Don Zief. Major gifts starting at $10K are recognized on the Donor Wall in the entryway lobby of the building, and on wayfinding signage throughout the space. A full list of top donors is attached.

As part of the capital campaign, Montclair Film competed in USA Today’s A Community Thrives social media fundraising campaign this spring, attracting gifts of more than $40K from 287 donors from across the nation, and winning a $25K Fan Favorite grant award from The Gannett Foundation.

The popular Take a Seat Campaign raised nearly $100K, with donors purchasing a cinema chair or table that features a sign with a special message to honor, remember, or celebrate a loved one or friend. That campaign is nearly complete, with just eight chairs left for purchase ($1,500/each). To learn more about this very special initiative, visit: MontclairFilm.org/Capital-Campaign/Take-A-Seat/

“We are so grateful to our entire community, everyone from our amazing design and construction team to our generous donors who have supported our renovation expenses. Their support has helped Montclair Film make this dream a reality,” said Montclair Film Board President Evelyn Colbert.

Montclair Film’s Cinema505, a 65-seat screening room in the building, features weekly presentations of the best in new independent film, including premieres by local emerging filmmakers, as well as restored classics. The Projection System is a gift from the Susan V. Bershad Charitable Fund. The cinema is also an active space for the organization to partner with non-profit organizations from all disciplines to use film and storytelling as a springboard to share stories and connect with the community.

This flexible, street-level space also converts into an intimate and inviting theater for conversations, book readings, a film club for young adults with special needs, Story Slams, Improv comedy, intimate musical performances, and theater presentations, as well as serving as one of downtown’s most popular new lounge spaces for individuals, corporations and nonprofit organizations to host cocktail receptions, celebrations, and dinners.
The concourse level of the building includes a rear entrance and patio, a gift of the Dara + Jedd Canty, located off the Fullerton Parking Deck. This ground floor encompasses our Education Center, a gift of the Silver Family Foundation, which serves as the hub for our growing offerings in film and media education. Filmmaking Academy classes for middle and high school students and adults take place in the Mindy Cohen + David Bershad Media Lab classrooms, a space that is also home to our Storytelling Studio, a podcast studio that houses hand-on classes and workshops. The space is also available to rent by professionals and others from the general public.

The LEED Certified building is fully ADA accessible with a new elevator, a gift of Bobbi Brown + Steven Plofker, that connects all three floors of the building, including staff offices for Montclair Film’s growing team of nine full-time and six part-time employees, as well as a seasonal festival staff the builds to more than twenty more professionals and hundreds and hundreds of volunteers who make all we do possible. The third-floor administrative offices are a gift from Shelley + Keith Phillips. The concourse level Pantry is a gift from Jay + Betsy Schwegge and the Welcome Desk a gift from Tracy Higgins + James Leitner. The Women’s Room, featuring the bank vault original to the building, is a gift from Jameson, Liam + Declan Canty.

The organization owes thanks to the extraordinary Montclair-based renovation team led by the incomparable Bob Silver of The Bravitas Group who served as Project Director. Team members included: Larry Slous (Partner: Ashenfelter, Slous, Tembulak, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP); Katie Long (Project Manager: The Bravitas Group); Paul Sionas and Rich Jarzemowski (Architects: Sionas Architecture, PC); Rachael Grochowski (Designer: RHG Architecture + Design); and Jack Finn (Contractor), Lance Hoffman (Project Manager) and Ken Jarvis (Project Manager) of Jack Finn & Company, Building Contractors, LLC.

While Montclair Film has reached its financial fundraising goal to cover its construction and renovation expenses, a select number of unique naming opportunities still exist for gifts of $50K and up, including the chance to name Cinema505, Montclair Film’s Box Office or Snack Bar, the Storytelling Studio, or the Vault Lounge. To learn more about how you can support the next phase of Montclair Film’s bright future, please contact Aran Roche, Director of Development at Aran@MontclairFilm.org or (973)783-7644 x 5.

ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM
Montclair Film, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, nurtures, and showcases the talents of filmmakers from around the region and world. Montclair Film unites, empowers, educates, and celebrates our region’s diverse cultural heritage and robust artistic community by presenting engaging programs and events all year long. The eighth annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from May 3-12, 2019. Montclair Film’s year-round and festival programming is made possible through generous support from Investors Bank; Audible; Hackensack Meridian Health; the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; The Bravitas Group; Ashenfelter, Slous, Trembulfak, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP; Chubb; Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; William H. Connolly & Co.; The Nature Conservancy, and others. Our programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For information about Montclair Film, visit www.montclairfilm.org

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Appendix A
Capital Campaign Donors as of December 1, 2018

$1 million+
Investors Bank

$250,000-$499,999
Evelyn and Stephen Colbert
The Silver Family Foundation

$100,000-$249,000
Susan V. Bershad Charitable Fund

$50,000-$99,000
Anonymous
Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker
Rose Cali
Dara and Jedd Canty
Mindy Cohen and David Bershad
Leslie Larson and Don Katz
Patty and Jonathan Strain

$25,000-$49,999
Kristina and James Bromley
Christina Cotton and Brian Clarkson
Melinda and Bill Connolly
Molli and John Dowd
Dorothea and Peter Frank
Gannett Foundation
Tracy Higgins and James Leitner
The Employees of Investors Bank
Mary and Michael Johnson
Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation
Kate Logan and Edmund Rung
New Jersey Cultural Trust
Shelley and Keith Phillips
Betsy and Jay Schewpepe Foundation
Lynn and Sengal Selassie
Margo and Frank Walter
Judy and Josh Weston
In memory of John C. Whitehead

$15,000-$24,999

Lisa and Joe Amato
Maggie Drucker and Bob Feinberg
Harold I. and Faye B. Liss Foundation
Zandi and Tom Nammack
Nancy Northup and James Johnson
Optima Engineering, P.A.
Karen and Warren Ross

$10,000-$14,999

Melissa and Robert Bigelow
Susan and Thomas Dunn
Radika Eccles and Steven Weddle
Philippa Girling and Joe Fiorentino
Martha and Dan Gregory
Sue Hollenberg and Joel Stillerman
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Alice and Matthew Iversen
Meredith and Jonathan Ladov
Marcia Marley and Peter Rappoport
JoAnn and John McCullough
The Montclair Foundation
George A. Ohl, Jr. Trust
Aran Roche and Matthew Podwoski
Katherine and Robert Ruberton
Mary Anne and Peter Vaughn
Beth and Craig Wilensky
Joan and Don Zief
$5,000-$9,999
Sarah and Craig Barrack
Luce and Daniel Battsek
Rosemarie Ciccarello and Christopher Harnett
Dominick DeChiara and Brad Vaiana
Tanja and James Dixon
Cathy and Conrad Fink
Alexis and Clifford Finkle
Karen and Robert Gulliver
The Hopson Family
Korin and Larry Korman
Glenda McNeal
Richmond and Josh Rabinowitz
Rose Brand

$2,500-$4,999
Alison and Douglas Bauer
Sandra Chamberlin and Paul Michaels
Molly and David Ervin
Linda Fan and William Schaefer
Diana and John Fennelly
Holly and Robert Gregory
Ellen and Steve Higgins
Tina Jordan and Kevin Rendino
Bruce P. Keller
New Jersey Beer Co.
Mary Jo Wrenn and Raj V. Tahil
$1,000-$2,499
Anonymous, in honor of Evelyn Colbert
Emily and Steve Becker
Kathleen Beebe and Jeffrey Szilagyi
Andie and Co Bertsche
Elizabeth and Tim Bozik
LeeAnn Carlson and Steve Van Kuiken
Bonnie and Michael Carter
Jennie and Tom Cherry
Kahane and Jeff Cooperman
Dagmara Dominczyk and Patrick Wilson
Everson Family Charitable Fund
Betsy and Brian Harris
Gwenyth H. Hurling
Edgar Kaplan
Jennifer and Todd Ladda
Marie and Wade Layton
Lorri Maake and Philip Bahramipour
Michael P. Maher
Maureen and Brad Ohlmuller
One-on-One with Steve Adubato
Kathy and Sly McClearn
Raphaela Neihausen and Thom Powers
Parker Bowles Family
Deirdra and Alex Picou
Bridget and David Placek
Valerie and Wesley Puryear
Marci Schulman Gruber
Jessica Sporn and Fred Cordero
Laura and Willard Tressel
Tyson Foods, Inc.
Claire Walls and Banks Tarver

$500-$999
Catalina Bajenaru
Benjamin Barbro
Joyce and Mark Friedman
Steven Fox
Christine James
Lynn Kasner Morgan
Kristen Kusama-Hinte
Sara Rutkowski
Mimi and Ted Scott
Maggie and Tom Vaughan
Mimi and Steve Wrede

$250-$499
Dot and Bob Allcorn
Linda and Bobby Bowers
Sharon Burton Turner and Lincoln Turner
Tanya Carter and Frank Barnes, Jr.
Kathleen Denny
Joe Donahue
Linda and Vincent Flanagan
In Memory of Hal Drucker
Joyce and Dennis Kaffel
Kianni Madison Keys
Joanne and Fred Langbein
Kimberly and Peter Ligotti
Laura Linn and Matthew Frankel
Jo and Frank Martone
Tracy McVeigh and Andrew Melitz
Amy and Don Putman
Lyn Rosenweig and Bruce Schnelwar
Jodi and Gary Rudoren
Nina and Rich Tucker
Julie Winokur and Ed Kashi