



MONTCLAIR FILM RECEIVES MORE THAN \$160,000 IN GRANT SUPPORT IN FINAL QUARTER OF 2020 TO HELP SUPPORT ITS MISSION

RECENT GRANTS INCLUDE \$40,548 IN NJ CARES ACT FUNDING; \$33K FROM THE NJ STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS; \$26.5K FROM NJ ARTS + CULTURE RECOVERY FUND; \$22.5K FROM NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF TRAVEL & TOURISM; \$30K FROM HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY; AND \$10K FROM THE NJEDA

December 29, 2020 - Montclair Film today announces \$40,548 of NJ CARES Act funds through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. As stated by Council Chair Liz Mattson, “Governor Murphy’s dedication of \$5 million dollars in CARES Act funds is just the kind of leadership we need now and in the coming months. We are grateful for this opportunity to provide some financial relief.” This federal funding helps to support Montclair Film’s work over this past year to pivot its programs to virtual and Carpool Theater formats during the pandemic, helping to safely educate, inspire, and entertain audiences across the State through the power of film and visual storytelling.

“Government support is a vital source of funding, helping to ensure Montclair Film’s stability during this challenging year,” Executive Director Tom Hall shares. “We are proud to be a recipient of NJ CARES Act funds and announce additional support including a general operating support grant of \$33K from the NJ State Council on the Arts and a cooperative marketing grant of \$22.5K from the NJ Division of Travel and Tourism, returning funders whose leadership grants help to leverage support from other private entities.”

Montclair Film’s marketing efforts focus on attracting a geographically diverse audience of cultural tourists to explore Montclair's parks and gardens, restaurants, museums and galleries, retail establishments, and regional hotels. These efforts help to enhance the organization’s reputation as the suburban epicenter for arts and culture in the New York Metro Area.

“Montclair Film is a trailblazer within our state and is helping New Jersey rise as a top destination for visual storytelling,” said Jeffrey Vasser, Executive Director of the New Jersey Division of Travel & Tourism. “From hallmark events, like the Montclair Film Festival, to live performances and celebrity speaker series, Montclair Film brings the arts to residents and visitors of the state, and we’re proud to have them as a strong partner.”

In addition, Montclair Film recently received \$10,000 from the NJ Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Emergency Assistance Phase 3 Grant program.

Montclair Film also celebrates recent foundation gifts and announces a grant in the amount of \$26,500 from the New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund, helping to support the

organization during this challenging time. “Funds like these help to keep the arts and culture alive in New Jersey!” according to Aran Roche, Montclair Film’s Director of Development.

Finally, Montclair Film received a two-year grant of \$30,000 from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. The donation, made through The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, will be used to help fund the 10th annual Montclair Film Festival in October 2021, as well as MFF22 in October 2022.

“Horizon is pleased to support the important work being done by Montclair Film to promote a greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the art of filmmaking and the role that media arts and storytelling play in the health of our community,” said Jonathan R. Pearson, Executive Director of The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey.

“These donations will enable Montclair Film to continue our important work of connecting artists with audiences and bringing people together through film and storytelling,” said Tom Hall, Executive Director of Montclair Film. “We are grateful to all of our partners, sponsors and donors for their generous support of our mission, and we look forward to bringing another year of inspirational programs to our community.”

Montclair Film strives to create a festival that reflects the diversity and wide-ranging interests of the community. With a depth of local talent in northern New Jersey, Montclair Film’s programs have established the organization as one of the nation’s leading regional film institutions.

Diverse sources of funds are key to Montclair Film’s success. In addition to government funds from federal and state entities and grants from private and corporate foundations, Montclair Film attracts a diverse range of support from individual donors, members, ticket buyers and those that support our film education programs. To learn more about ways you can support Montclair Film during its 10th anniversary season in 2021, visit www.MontclairFilm.org/support.

About Montclair Film

Montclair Film, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization connects filmmakers from around the region and world with audiences by presenting films and year-round programs that engage, educate, and entertain through the power of visual storytelling. The tenth annual Montclair Film Festival, presented by Investors Bank, will take place in October 2021. All programs are made possible with 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, among many others. Montclair Film provides unique and meaningful ways to engage with diverse, creative, and sophisticated audiences and seeks sponsors for its signature film festival and other year-round programs that attract more than 46,000 annual attendees and generate more than 750 million media impressions yearly. For information about Montclair Film, visit www.MontclairFilm.org.

About the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, created in 1966, is a division of the NJ Department of State. The Council was established to encourage and foster public interest in the arts; enlarge public and private resources devoted to the arts; promote freedom of expression in the arts; and facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey. The Council receives direct

appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated, renewable Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee, as well as competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. To learn more about the Council, please visit www.artscouncil.nj.gov.

About the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism

New Jersey offers a wide variety of experiences to visitors all year long. Travelers can enjoy outdoor adventures, renowned culinary offerings, educational opportunities, and a strong arts and cultural scene. With numerous state and national parks, beaches, skiing, tax-free shopping, historic sites, museums and more, New Jersey blends together its rich history and exciting present. Home to the nation's first beach resorts and the birthplace of major inventions, New Jersey offers a picturesque escape and dynamic opportunities for visitors from near and far. For more information, visit www.visitnj.org.

About the New Jersey Economic Development Authority

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) serves as the State's principal agency for driving economic growth. The NJEDA is committed to making New Jersey a national model for inclusive and sustainable economic development by focusing on key strategies to help build strong and dynamic communities, create good jobs for New Jersey residents, and provide pathways to a stronger and fairer economy. Through partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders, the NJEDA creates and implements initiatives to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in the State and strengthen New Jersey's long-term economic competitiveness.

About the New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund

The New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund was established to ensure the survival and strength of the state's arts, cultural and historical sector during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. NJACRF is hosted by the Princeton Area Community Foundation, and Co-Chaired by Jeremy Grunin of the Grunin Foundation and Sharnita C. Johnson of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. In addition to Grunin and Dodge, the NJACRF's Steering Committee includes representatives from the Prudential Foundation, Stone Foundation of NJ, and E. J. Grassmann Trust, all contributors to the Fund, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and New Jersey Historical Commission. The fund is also generously supported by the NJ Pandemic Relief Fund, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and a growing list of donors.

About The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey is committed to working alongside those who can help us improve our neighbors' health, inform their health decisions and inspire them to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives. The Foundation's mission is to support organizations that make New Jersey healthier. The Foundation has three funding pillars, Caring, Connecting and Creating. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey is the sole member of The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, both of which are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. For more information please visit <http://community.horizonblue.com/>.

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