

COUNTY EXECUTIVE ARTS AWARDS



Pictured above from left to right: Dorothy Filoramo representing CEAA sponsor Dominican College; Kim Crispino representing CEAA sponsor Key Bank; Lee Hancock and Michele Sommer representing Rockland Country Day School; John McMahon, President, Chief Executive Officer of Orange and Rockland Utilities; Collette Fournier, ACOR Chairperson Brian Condon; Bunny Crumpacker; C. Scott Vanderhoef, County Executive; Erica Grodin, representing Finkelstein Memorial Library; Ginger Stoltze and Carole Perry representing Hopper House Art Center

2008 Ceremony

On April 23, more than 300 people who attended the 22nd County Executive Arts Awards were the first to learn the winners of the 2008 Awards. The ceremony was held at Riverspace.

Attendees were treated to performances by Richard Skipper, Rockland Youth Dance Ensemble and the India Cultural Society of Rockland County. Dessert was provided by the Hospitality Department of Rockland Community College.

Scott Vanderhoef (Rockland County Executive), John McMahon (President and CEO of Orange and Rockland Utilities) and Brian Condon (Chairperson, Arts Council of Rockland) served as emcees.

Orange and Rockland Utilities served as Primary Corporate Sponsor. Cor-Lin Construction, Dominican College, Key Bank and St. Thomas Aquinas College were all Corporate Sponsors. The ceremony was recorded and broadcast by Cablevision.

The 2008 winners are:

Arts Education: Rockland Country Day School

What do you call a school that:

- integrates the arts throughout the educational experience of each of its students
- wins two Arts Education Grants from the Arts Council of Rockland
- wins the Helen Hayes Award for High School musicals in Acting, Set Design and Media Graphics
- practices what it preaches - that the arts are central to life and to the spirit of every student - that if given a safe environment to reach beyond their self-perceived limitations, students will take thoughtful and creative artistic risks and recognize that this stretching is a health-filled, joyous activity that will serve them well throughout their lives.



You'd be right if you called this school, the Rockland Country Day School.

(pictured: Lee Hancock and Michele Sommer)

Arts Organization: Edward Hopper House Art Center



First, you make a commitment to preserve an old building of historic and artistic importance. You do this for 37 years. Through the sustained mobilization of many individuals, you save the building from scheduled demolition. You make and keep a commitment to honor the legacy of the man whose house it was and his belief that fine arts, music, literature, movies, theater, illustration and studio

work are all important. For 37 years, you create, maintain and enhance programming that is consistent with that legacy. You present art exhibitions, Shakespeare, jazz, book fairs, poetry workshops and classes to meet the diverse needs and interests of the community. Your local work is so important that German and Japanese media come to Rockland County to document this dynamic program. Edward Hopper is an artistic figure of international significance and recognition. This is his boyhood home and his legacy - preserved, publicized and enhanced in Nyack by the Edward Hopper House Art Center.

(Pictured: Ginger Stoltze and Carole Perry)

Literary Artist: Bunny Crumpacker



Many writers specialize. It requires a particularly adaptive and creative artist who can go beyond their area of specialization and be really good at it. Bunny Crumpacker is one of these rare writers. Bunny has written several successful, published books that address a remarkably wide span of topics - biography, social science, cookbooks, fiction and non-fiction. If you merge commercial success with artistic flexibility - you get Bunny Crumpacker.

Performing Artist: Neil Berg



Talk about home town boy makes good in the world and comes back home to reclaim his home town roots. He travels the world bringing world class artists with him but always comes back home. Wins mega awards. Wins mega recognition. Fills the houses. Creates, composes, produces and performs hits. When you talk about Neil Berg, you talk about Rockland and you talk about a star!

Supporter of the Arts: Finkelstein Memorial Library

The 100,000 people who live in the area served by Finkelstein Library speak and read 25 languages. They require services and programs far greater than just borrowing books written in English. While books are the cornerstone of this library's identity and mission, Finkelstein recognizes that the arts can transcend written language. The Library presents exhibitions, musical and theatrical performances, movies, lectures, programs for children, adults, families and senior citizens. Finkelstein Library courageously stands up for the right of free expression. Because the Board and Staff of the Library demonstrated their commitment to free expression and did so in the face of potentially dire consequences, Finkelstein was awarded the New York Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Award in 2006. For doing so much good for so many people for so many years, Finkelstein Memorial Library is a true supporter of the arts. (Pictured: Erica Grodin)



Visual Artist: Collette Fournier

Over her 20 plus year career as a professional photographer, Collette Fournier has worked in a variety of settings - staff photographer for The Bergen Record and The Rockland Journal News; freelance photographer for The New York Post; Campus Photographer for Rockland Community College; and photo-journalist documenting many programs and events. While her work covers a broad spectrum, Collette's focus has been the African diaspora experience. Themes of her exhibitions include black motorcyclists, tours of west Africa and studies of the Amistad. She has received awards from the American Association of University Women, The Open Society Institute, two grants for Professional Development and three awards for Artistic Excellence from Rockland Community College.



Text written by Mark Judelson - Photos by Joan Sanders except Neil Berg

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