

Ambassador's Palette

Cheers to 15 years!



Newark Arts would like to thank everyone who came out to support five inspiring days in Newark at our 15th Annual Open Doors Citywide Arts Festival! From the artists, curators, volunteers, ambassadors, and participants of Open Doors, Newark Arts recognizes your time and efforts to make this Festival special. Newark Arts would also like to thank our 40 citywide galleries that participated and our sponsors that made Open Doors possible. Be on the lookout for more events from the Newark Arts Council as we round out the New Year and usher in new beginnings in 2017. For the full event schedule, visit our website at .

Follow us on social media!



The Directors Corner with Jeremy Johnson

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Newark Arts News. This electronic newsletter is the work of Newark Arts' Ambassadors, a group of committed volunteers who love the arts. I applaud you, our Ambassadors, for giving of your time, treasures and talents to promote and strengthen Newark Arts. Through this digital communication, you will have an opportunity to share stories and images of your deep connection to our great city. In these pages, you will get a glimpse of the lives of your fellow artists, arts lovers, teachers, business people, parents, and all-around do-gooders. Together, you are figuratively and literally building a city where our children will be surrounded and enriched by art and culture. Enjoy the words and photos found here and please contribute to future editions. Newark Arts Ambassadors, I salute you!



Newark Arts is Still Looking for Ambassadors

Why volunteer?

Just because our five-day Open Doors citywide festival is over doesn't mean we aren't looking for volunteers! Head over to our website at www.newarkarts.org. There are many benefits with being a Newark Arts Ambassador, including making a big impact on Newark's rising arts scene!

Other benefits of becoming a Newark Arts ambassador include making an impact on your local community, networking, building bridges, and gaining exposure and knowledge of the rising Newark Arts scene. If you want to give back to Newark and the surrounding community, volunteering for Newark Arts can be a fun and easy way to make this possible.



If you enjoy meeting new people, gaining knowledge about different art forms, keeping active and gaining cultural awareness of the Newark Arts scene, don't hesitate to become a volunteer and a Newark Arts Ambassador.

There are volunteer opportunities in administrative support, event production and staging, exhibition staff, hosts, graphic design, and even information technology and website design! If you have an interest in the Arts and have some of the above skills, then volunteering for the Newark Arts is especially for you! Don't be afraid to check out our website and try out our easy way to get in touch with the Newark Arts Council. Fill out the simple survey and we will be in touch!



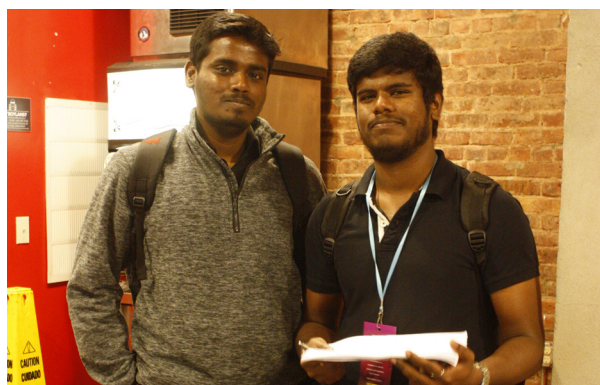
Open Doors Recap

Open Doors got off to a marvelous start with the Opening Reception on Wednesday Oct. 19th at the Newark Museum. A fantastic event, full of celebration, good music, food, and drinks. The Public Launch Party at Prudential Center Championship Plaza on Thursday Oct 20th pulled out all stops to raise awareness for Open Doors. The marching band from Shabazz High School gave out great energy and the Vendors Fair served as a great way to pick some goodies, as Open Doors Week was officially under way.



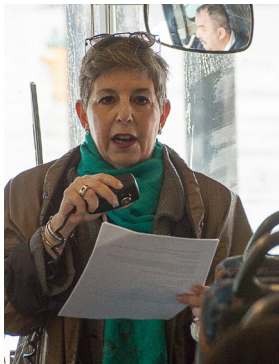
Gallery Crawl and Studio Tour

The citywide Arts Gallery Crawl took place Friday Oct 21st, with over 40 exhibits open for FREE! Thank you to all of the participants and ambassadors for making Friday's crawl such a special citywide event. Cheers to 15 years! Meanwhile, Sunday 22nd had many Art studios in the city open their doors for the final day of the festival. This day included over 15 events, with hundreds of artists from over a dozen countries.



Murals and Martinis

We are happy to announce that the first Mural and Martinis tour was a great success! Guests went on a mural tour around the city and enjoyed some tasty drinks at the following reception. The tour also got to take a great look at the McCarter Highway Mural, which is the longest mural on the East Coast! Newark Arts would like to give a special thanks to our tour guide, Rodney Gilbert.



Newark Arts Holiday Celebration

Newark Arts would like to thank everyone who came out and enjoyed our holiday brunch party at Deborah Jazz Café. Newark Arts Ambassadors, Open Doors Volunteers, Artists, Co-Workers, and the Board of Directors all enjoyed a delicious spread and dessert while celebrating the holiday spirit. This was a great event to relax and network with all the great individuals involved with the Newark Arts. We would also like to thank Deborah Jazz Café for hosting us, we will be back soon! Happy Holidays from the Newark Arts Ambassadors!



Photos courtesy of Deborah Jazz Café.

Newark Arts' Featured Artist: Gregg Banks

Gregg Banks, Artist, Muralist, Oil Painter, Newark Resident.

We interviewed Gregg Banks for our first Newark Arts E-Newsletter. Get to know Gregg Banks a little better below!

NA: What is your background? How did you get into the arts? How did you end up here in Newark?

GB: Well, I was actually born and raised in Newark. The first time I knew I was meant to be an artist I was 5 years old, I drew a penny with Abraham Lincoln on a piece of brown paper, and by the way my parents reacted to it, let me know that I had done something really well. From then on, I was always drawing for my brothers and sisters. I went to Arts High School, after that I had a bunch of warehouse and factory jobs that I kind of got tired of. Especially when people saw my artwork, they would ask, "What are you doing here? I would be here, there, and so forth etc." So I got tired of hearing that. I actually just stepped out and began a career in the arts by painting murals; in churches and day care centers – anyplace where I saw a blank wall seemed to be a canvas for me. So I've been doing that since the year 2000.

NA: That leads into my next question, what type of art do you do?

GB: Well I'm an oil painter, I've had solo exhibits, helped mutual friends in the art world with their exhibits, and I've curated art in the Ironbound section of Newark. I've had my work displayed at Gallery Aferro, as well as the Fire Station Art Gallery in the Ironbound on Prospect St. I paint murals



and portraits, and I do paint and sips, something new I've ventured into that has been very lucrative for me.

NA: As far as murals here in Newark, do have locations that you specifically take credit for?

GB: Yes I have one on the corner of Seymour and Clinton Ave. in Newark. It's a hand holding a crystal ball and has a slogan on there, "We can see into the Future when we uplift our Vision". City Hall commissioned me for that mural. I have another one in progress on Irvine Turner and Clinton Ave. Also the sidewalk art that I've done – I painted Savion Glover and Sarah Vaughan on the sidewalk of Clinton Ave.

NA: Where you involved with Newark Arts Open Doors Weekend? If so, where at, and what was the exhibit all about?

GB: Yes I had two installations at the new art gallery on Edison Pl. off of McCarter Highway, it used to be a huge paper warehouse and factory, that was my installation for Open Doors. I also did the "Art in Park" series, first with City Hall, and I did it this year with Newark 350th, where I invited people to come to the park and paint. I supplied all the equipment for them to come and paint, the tables and chairs and easels and canvas, and I had a crowd of about 30 people at Washington Park, here in Newark. That was in August.

NA: What do the arts mean to you now, and why is it your passion?

GB: I like the saying "Open Doors",

"I like the saying 'Open Doors', because that's what the arts really mean to me. It continuously opens doors for me to be an artist...I'm passionate about it because it's always there for me, it's a way out of any situation."



because that's what the arts really mean to me. It continuously opens doors for me, to be an artist. You know you have the phrase, "starving artist", and I haven't experienced that yet, because of my art. I'm passionate about it because it's always there for me, it's a way out of any situation. Right now I'm painting a mural at the Courts building, for Newark community solutions, and it's on the third floor. Art takes me through so many doors, it's amazing. I don't know where I would be without the talent that was given to me, as far as art is concerned.

NA: Where and how can people get familiar with your work?

GB: I've done several interviews that you can Google. Google "Gregg Banks art", there's something there where I'm instructing a future artist at the Newark Fire Station Art Gallery at the ironbound. If just Google, "Gregg Banks art" you'll definitely see more of my work.



Newark Arts' Featured Ambassador: Vellus Campbell

Vellus Campbell, Multimedia Artist, Newark Arts Ambassador

The Newark Arts E-Newsletter would like to thank and recognize our Featured Ambassador, Vellus Campbell, for her tireless work and support for Newark Arts. Get to know Vellus a bit more in her interview below!

NA: What type of art do you do? And what is your background into the arts?

VC: Well I'm a self-taught artist. So mainly I've just been inspired since I was a little girl to create things, based on things that I've seen. And I remember when I was younger I used to stare at signs and pictures, and photos and things, and trace it with my eye, and sort of trace the photo or the sign, the outline of it, with my eye, and that's how I was able to transform my vision onto paper. So I don't really have any formal training as the arts are concerned, I kind of just developed my own style.

NA: What type of art do you do now?

VC: Well I'm a multimedia artist. I do a lot of everything: paper mache, paper mache sculptures, I paint, I sow, I do basic drawing, so I'm kind of all over the place with the type of mediums I use.

NA: How did you get involved with the Newark Arts Council?

VC: Actually my friend Korte, who was heavily involved with arts and the Newark arts scene in general. He was at a show in Newark and was speaking to someone, and a friend of his mentioned the Newark Arts Council. And a person basically told



them that they were having a meeting coming up on the weekend, and that he should check it out. He ended up going to the meeting and told me how awesome it was. He invited me to the next meeting, and I ended up going, and I've been volunteering ever since.

NA: Are you from or do you live in Newark? What made you want to work with Newark Arts?

VC: I actually never lived in Newark. I've always lived in Ocean County. But the reason I go up and drive an hour, and change to be with the Newark Arts is really because the Newark Arts evolves itself with all aspects of the arts. Whereas other art groups or councils it's very exclusive to that group. And although they'll do art shows amongst themselves, it's very rare that you have a group that invites the community in, and go out into the community and make their presence aware and known. I think, that's one of the most important things, not only having the art knowledge, but the ability to enjoy the arts and promote it, and the promotion of the arts is really the important thing of it as well. Using arts as a way to include everyone in the community.

NA: Did you volunteer for Open Doors?

VC: I did. I volunteered at a couple places, I was at Redd's Beirgarten assisting with the gallery tour. It was very cool. I got to meet people off the streets who were either artists or maybe just spectators. Who all really enjoyed being able to go around and check out all of the art exhibits that were up and running. So it was cool

to take people around the city and allow them to check out new spots that they've never noticed before. Also being able to see what other artists do, and being able to have them interpret art with their own vision.

NA: Although you served as an ambassador, were you able to enjoy Open Doors from an artists' perspective?

VC: I was able to look at from both perspectives, being able to connect and feel for the artists themselves, and also assist spectators with questions they might have had. So I enjoyed it as both a spectator and a volunteer.

NA: Where do you see the Newark Arts scene going in the future?

VC: I see it expanding. I see it definitely expanding and sort of growing as far as membership is concerned, but also see them getting involved a lot more. I remember over the summer, I remember assisting at the Montclair Jazz Festival. And I thought that was really cool, to represent Newark Arts and who we are as ambassadors for the Newark Arts Council. But also getting involved with other towns. And doing more things out of the norm, and being able to assist with other things that are out of comfort zone in the arts in Newark. I see us bridging that gap between the community and other towns in the future.

NA: How can Newark Arts improve?

VC: I think we do a pretty good job of branching out. The only thing that might

need some improvement would be getting more people involved, especially in the Newark community. I know they are really pushing to expand the pool of volunteers. Getting others involved with the Newark Arts, that's what's really important.

NA: How does it feel to be the first featured ambassador for Newark Arts E-Newsletter?

VC: I was actually really shocked! I had no idea that I would've ever been picked as the first. But I'm also really flattered. It was a pleasant surprise for me. And I'm really grateful for the opportunity to spearhead the Newark Arts Ambassador side of things for this issue!



Take a Look at Upcoming Newark Events This Winter...

- Sat December 24th** – Christmas Roller Skating Eve, Branch Brook Park Skating, 7th Ave at Clifton Ave, 11:30am-10pm.
- Sun December 25th** – An Exceptional Christmas Party with Klass & Zenglen, Robert Treat Hotel Tri-State Ballroom, 50 Park Pl, 10pm-4am, \$40 \$80VIP.
- Sat December 31st** – NYE in Newark I Freakshow, Index Art Center, 237 Washington St. 9pm-2:30am.
- Sat December 31st** – SWEAT BOX I New Years Eve Dance Party, SOLO(s) PROJECT HOUSE 972 Broad St, 9pm-3am.
- Every weekday through July** – Art Exhibition “Indivisible” by Vaughn Spann, Engelhard Hall, 1st Floor - 190 University Avenue, Free.
- Every weekday through July** – Ballantine House Exhibition, Robeson Campus Center 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Blvd, Free.
- Wed, Thr, Fri, and Sat weekly** – Urban Anthropology Art Exhibit, 85 Market St, 3-7pm.
- Sat January 7th** – Jazz Vespers, Bethany Baptist Church 275 W Market St, 6pm, Free.
- January 13-16th** – Disney on Ice!, Prudential Center, 7pm.
- Sun January 15th** – Gladys Knight, NJPAC, 7pm.
- Sat January 21st** – Twenty One Pilots, Prudential Center, 7pm.

Donate!

Newark Arts is responsible for all of the arts in Newark. Our organization strives to bring the transformative power of the arts into the lives of those who live in, work in, and visit Newark through programs, advocacy, promotion, education, and coordination. We cannot accomplish this without the dedication and support of people like you. To donate to sustaining the arts in Newark, please visit our website at [newarkarts.org](#). Thank you!



Happy Holidays!

From your friends at *Newark Arts*



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