



## **ArtPride New Jersey Celebrates Black History Month with Statewide Focus on the Impact of Black American Artists**

*Programming throughout February includes theater, art exhibitions, and musical performances*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Burlington, N.J., February 1, 2025** – This February, in honor of Black History Month, Discover Jersey Arts shines a spotlight on the transformative contributions of Black American artists. From the cultural flourishing of the Harlem Renaissance to the groundbreaking Black Arts Movement and the innovative works of emerging contemporary artists, Black creatives have shaped and enriched the arts in profound ways.

This year’s message, “The contributions of Black American artists have been transformative — from the historic Harlem Renaissance to the Black Arts Movement and the innovative works of emerging contemporary artists. Discover Jersey Arts honors the work and impact of Black American voices in the arts,” reflects ArtPride New Jersey Foundation's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

As part of its programming, Discover Jersey Arts invites residents and visitors alike to engage in events celebrating Black artists and organizations across New Jersey. Highlights include theater performances, exhibitions, musical tributes, and feature stories. The full calendar of events can be explored at [JerseyArts.com/BlackHistoryMonth](https://JerseyArts.com/BlackHistoryMonth).

“In a world where art is a universal language, celebrating the diverse voices of Black American artists is both essential and enriching,” said Adam Perle, President and CEO of ArtPride New Jersey. “Black History Month offers a unique opportunity to recognize the vital contributions these voices have made in shaping our cultural landscape and our communities.”



#### Featured Programming:

- 1. Carrying On: Black Panther Party artists continue the legacy | Jan 27 - Mar 15, 2025**  
**Reception & Artists Panel:** Feb 8, 3 PM (SOLD OUT) | Reception follows  
**Rowan University: 301 High Street Gallery**  
Four artists, shaped by the Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights movement, began their journeys through *The Black Panther* newspaper. Their works—spanning illustrations, paintings, sculpture, and AI—explore justice, liberation, and creativity.
- 2. Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream | Feb 14 - Mar 2, 2025**  
**Theatre at Growing Stage**  
**The Historic Palace Theatre | Route 183, 7 Ledgewood Avenue | Netcong, NJ 07857**  
A spirited story of Marcenia Lyle, who defies expectations to become Toni Stone—the first woman to play for an all-male professional baseball team. A powerful tale of perseverance, passion, and breaking barriers.
- 3. Chief Adjuah (Formerly Christian Scott)**  
**Thu, Feb 13, 2025 | 7:30 PM**  
**Berlind Theatre**  
Six-time Grammy nominee **Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah** reshapes jazz with his electrifying fusion of styles and cultures. Experience a groundbreaking live performance from one of today's most innovative artists!

#### **ArtPride New Jersey's Commitment to Equity**

As part of its dedication to becoming an anti-racist organization, ArtPride New Jersey Foundation continues to champion the voices of historically excluded communities, including Black, LatinX, Asian Pacific Islander, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities. The foundation recognizes the existence of systemic inequities in New Jersey's arts and cultural community and is committed to transformative change.

Through advocacy, awareness, and grassroots efforts, ArtPride New Jersey seeks to amplify diverse artistic voices and ensure equitable access to the arts for all.

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#### **About Discover Jersey Arts**

Discover Jersey Arts is a program of the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation dedicated to increasing awareness of and participation in the arts statewide. JerseyArts.com showcases New Jersey's creative community through feature stories, videos, and podcasts; highlighted events and ticket deals; a comprehensive directory of arts organizations; and other content. Discover Jersey Arts was co-founded and is supported by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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#### **About the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation**

The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes the value of the arts to New Jersey's quality of life, education, and economic vitality through research and a variety of programs and services. For more information about ArtPride New Jersey, visit [ArtPrideNJ.org](http://ArtPrideNJ.org).