

ArtsWestchester In White Plains Gives Awards to 50 Local Artists

by Daily Voice 3/25/15



Winning artists join Janet Langsam, (holding check) chief executive officer of ArtsWestchester and Robert Cerminaro of First Niagara Bank. Photo Credit: *Jeanne Muchnick*

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – In a significant showing of support for the arts, ArtsWestchester and First Niagara Bank announced the winners of ArtsWestchester's "50 for 50" Awards along with a major corporate gift. The fifty selected artists represent an impressive mix of filmmakers, poets, visual artists, choreographers, composers and performing artists – all of whom reside in and/or work in all parts of Westchester.

"Working artists are the lifeblood of a creative community and we believe it's important to honor them and recognize their contributions," said Janet Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester. "This is especially important for ArtsWestchester in this milestone 50th anniversary year. The competition was intense which speaks to the high caliber of artists and artistic work being done in Westchester County."

In honor of ArtsWestchester's 50th Anniversary, First Niagara also presented ArtsWestchester with a check for \$50,000, continuing its support for the organization's arts programs and services. First Niagara's contribution is helping to underwrite a number of anniversary efforts this year, including ArtsWestchester's county-wide "ARTSEE Festival of New Work," its artist-in-residency programs and its effort to create over 50 new arts and business partnerships.

"First Niagara is proud to continue its partnership with ArtsWestchester, which ensures accessibility and diversity of the arts in Westchester County. We are particularly pleased to partner with ArtsWestchester this year as it celebrates its 50th anniversary," said Robert Cerminaro, senior vice president and tri-state market executive, First Niagara Bank. "50 for 50" is one of several key initiatives that ArtsWestchester launched this year to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. In this signature program, 50 artists were selected through a competitive nomination process and the winners will be awarded \$1,000 prizes in recognition of their artistic work and contributions to Westchester's cultural community at a special Arts Award Luncheon on April 16.

To learn more, visit www.artswestchester.org/.