



PORT CHESTER COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, INC.

Port Chester Council for the Arts (PCCFA) is a not-for-profit arts organization based in Port Chester, New York that since 1981 has been a pioneer in developing and providing high quality arts programs that encourage cooperation among all segments of the community through a variety of shared artistic experience for children and adults alike.

Education Based Arts Programs

Examples include the highly successful *Connections After School Program* in which over 125 children participate in a daily after-school program offered at the public elementary schools in Port Chester. *KinderArt*, which began in 1983, provides a storyteller and visual artist who coordinate their arts activities with the kindergarten curriculum district-wide. And finally, the *Literacy Through the Arts* program, in which professional artists teach students in grades K-5 such varied subjects as sign language, theater, dance, music, painting and crafts all integrated with the New York State standards for literacy in each grade.

Community Theater

PCCFA's theater workshops offer opportunities for community children and adults to participate in a wide range of theater arts activities annually. These workshops continue to add new actors and technical crew members as the audiences continue to grow. The annual *Summer Theater Workshops* include Youth Theater (high school/college-aged), Adult Musical Theater and Children's Theater. The newest venture, *Lawn Chair Theater*, is an adult and student production of a Shakespearean play in an outdoor park setting. Many children who have participated in these programs have gone on to pursue promising professional careers in acting, music, arts education and stagecraft.

Awards

Through its collaboration with the Village of Port Chester's Recreation Department, the PCCFA's programs recently earned an Award of Excellence in Humanities Programming from the National Parks Service.

NASD

Continuing this legacy of innovation, PCCFA last year launched **NATIONAL ARTS IN THE SCHOOL DAY** to emphasize the vital role the arts play in a child's education. On April 16, 2008 the PCCFA piloted this program with the goal of giving children in grades K-12 nationwide the opportunity to experience and be inspired by all kinds of creative arts in school.