Carol Herbert, NJ Arts Advocate

By: C&H Staff

The winner of the 2020 Ocean County Arts Advocate Award was Carol Ann Herbert of Point Pleasant, who has advanced the cause of the arts for over 30 years, strengthening the many vibrant, diverse arts communities in Ocean County and across New Jersey. A lifelong resident of the Garden State, Herbert holds a bachelor of arts in psychology from the College of New Jersey.



Ocean County Arts Advocate Award.
Photo Credit: C&H Staff

She has served in various leadership positions on many boards – including the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force, Young Audiences New Jersey, George Street Playhouse, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the Women's Wellness and Healthcare Connection at Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center – and held positions on several New Jersey State Council on the Arts committees, including the executive, grants, planning, and public value committees.

Herbert was appointed to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in 2003 and served as board chair from 2004 to 2009. During her time as chair, she oversaw the update of Arts Plan NJ as well as the national search for the executive director. As chair of the planning committee, Herbert facilitated public feedback meetings to inform the development of two of the council's long-range strategic plans; she also spearheaded the council's 50th anniversary celebration, held in the NJ State House Assembly Chambers, attended by more than 200 constituents and special guest (the then Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts) Jane Chu.

Herbert was instrumental in creating the public value committee, a standing committee of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, dedicated to communicating the benefits of the arts and the work of the Arts Council.

She is founder and past Board President of the David B. Crabiel Scholarship Foundation and currently serves on the boards of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the New Brunswick Cultural Center.

Herbert was acknowledged by the NJ General Assembly in 2008 with a formal resolution for her national and statewide service to the arts community. She is a recipient of the Governor Thomas H. Kean Arts Advocacy award, and the Lillian Levy Standing Ovation award from the South Jersey Cultural Alliance for her significant contributions to the promotion of the arts, history and culture in New Jersey.

A video tribute will be shown at the virtual 2021 Salute on June 15, 2021.