



SALUTE TO OCEAN COUNTY

A CELEBRATION OF ARTS & CULTURE

The Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission's awards celebration, the 14th annual *Salute to Ocean County*, was held on May 15th at the Gateway Building at Ocean County College in Toms River. The 2025 awardees include some of Ocean County's leaders in the humanities – individuals and organizations dedicated to preserving history, culture, and the arts in their communities and regions. Each of the awardees received a short documentary produced by local high school students.

To submit nominations for Salute awards, please complete a nomination form and submit to thart@co.ocean.nj.us or mail to 1198 Bandon Road, Toms River, NJ, 08753
<https://rb.gy/96w9f5>

2025 AWARDEES

Ocean County Lifetime Achievement in the Arts:

Ocean County Artists Guild - <https://youtu.be/idNoPJui78s>

John C. Bartlett Government Leadership Award:

Commissioner Virginia E. Haines - <https://youtu.be/DIs7QCfgUTQ>

Virginia E. Haines Historic Advocate Award:

Jeffrey Schenker - <https://youtu.be/FZ33Glz4i48>

Historic Preservation Award:

Barnegat Light Museum - <https://youtu.be/Bt93RzEd7K4>

Lilia W. Thompson Legislative Recognition Award:

Senator Carmen F. Amato, Jr.



RECENT PREVIOUS AWARDEES

Check the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage website for awardees prior to 2017.

Ocean County Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Past Awardees

2024: Malcolm Robinson - Decoy Carver
2023: Harry Bower - Visual Artist
2022: Mary May - Basket Weaver
2021: Art Birdsall – Decoy Maker
2020: Robert Popovics - Naturalist, Innovator, Artist
2019: Thomas E. Rutledge - Visual Artist
2018: Eva Lucena Welch - Dance
2017: Kate Leigh Cutler - Visual Artist

Founders Award

Past Awardees

2017: Sherry D. Schnepf from Our Gang Players

Art Advocate Award

Past Awardees

2020: Carol Ann Herbert

Pauline S. Miller Lifetime Achievement Award for Ocean County History

Past Awardees

2024: Thomas P. Farner
2023: Gretchen Coyle
2022: Eleanor Ditton
2020: Deborah C. Whitcraft
2019: Margaret Thomas Buchholz
2018: Alfred T. Stokely
2017: Jeanette Llyod

Ocean County Cultural Response Award

Past Awardees

2021: Brick Children's Community Theatre
2021: Lighthouse International Film Festival
2021: Ocean Professional Theatre (Surflight)

John C. Bartlett, Jr. Government Leadership Award

Past Awardees

2024: Michael T. Mangum
2022: Bahiyyah Abdullah
2019: Elaine H. McConnell
2018: J. Mark Mutter

Special Recognition for Advancement of the Arts in Ocean County

Past Awardees

2023: Paul Hartelius
2018: June Sullivan

Historic Preservation Award

Past Awardees

2024: Seaside Heights - Dr. Floyd Moreland Carousel
2023: LBI Historical Association - Fisherman's
Cottage
2017: Ken Fredericks & Larry Midrano - 1877 The
Buhler Mansion Pine Beach

Virginia E. Haines Historic Advocate Award

Past Awardees

2024: Kathy D. Conrad
2024: W. Grove Conrad
2020: Virginia E. Haines

Special Award of Merit

Past Awardees

2024: Cheryl Kirby - Echoes of LBI magazine
2022: Reisa Sweet - Contributions to Ocean County
Human Relations Commission
2021: Andrew Anderson and Patrick Leon Asay -
Ocean County Memories Founded 1850!
2019: William de Camp, Jr. - Contributions to
Barnegat Bay
2018: Joseph Lappin - Lifetime of service to boating
on Barnegat Bay
2017: Richard Morris - Historic Preservation
Advocate
2017: Valerie Vaughn - Giving Voice to the Stories
of Ocean County