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Akron arts world to bestow awards

Nominees vie in categories such as music, dance, theater, patrons, volunteers. `Oscar night'-type event to raise money for arts group

By Kerry Clawson

Beacon Journal staff writer

Akron will present its own brand of ``Academy Awards" for outstanding achievement, leadership and stewardship of arts and culture at Arts Alive! Nov. 16.

The second biennial event is a fund-raising project of the Akron Area Arts Alliance, which fosters cooperation among arts and cultural groups in Summit, Medina and Portage counties. Arts Alive! will run from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Downtown City Centre.

The evening will feature live entertainment, dinner and dessert, an awards presentation with performances by local talent and an auction of more than 80 decorative boxes designed by local artists.

``Greater Akron is home to an incredible pool of talented artists in every field. We are also blessed with corporations, patrons and volunteers who make performances and shows possible," said event co-chairwoman Mary Ann Jackson.

``It is important to honor these people right here, in our own community, not only because they deserve the recognition, but also to demonstrate to our young, emerging artists that Northeast Ohio is a great cultural environment to perform in, work in and live in."

Awards will be given in 12 categories. The finalists, selected by a committee of arts and culture professionals, are:

- Visual arts: Craig Lucas, Dino Massaroni, John Sokol, Mark Soppeland and La Wilson.
- Music: Dolores Parker Morgan, jazz; George Pope, flute; Jack Schantz, jazz; Philip Thomson, piano; and Nicholas Constantinidis, piano.
- Theater: Neil Thackaberry, Barbara Ballance and Paul Daum.
- Dance: Lana Carroll Heylock, University of Akron Dance Institute; and Kathryn Mihelick, Leaven Dance Co.
- Arts volunteer: Dana Pulk, Cecelia Sveda, and Betty and Howard Taylor.
- Arts patron: Edward and Frances Bittle, Madeline and Libert Bozzelli, Ann Amer Brennan, and Bruce and Lola Rothmann.

- Arts outreach: Reach Out & Dance Program, Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet; Performing Arts Can Teach/Akron, Magical Theatre Company; and Tuba Christmas and Tuba Summer, Tucker Jolly.
- Arts business support: Pat Catan's, Fifth Third Bank of Northeast Ohio and FirstEnergy Corp. Foundation.
- Government leadership in the arts: Summit County Council and Summit County Executive James McCarthy.
- Arts educator: Julienne Hogarth, Miller South School; Noreen Jones, Old Trail School; Anitra Redlefsen, private instructor; and Susan Yingling, Miller South School.
- Rising young star: Scott Matthews, visual artist; Sean Anderson, baritone; and Angela White, visual artist.
- Collaborative project: Continental Harmony Project (Akron Art Museum and Akron Symphony Orchestra); PATHS Project (Akron Symphony and Akron Children's Hospital); Lock 3 Live! (city of Akron and Akron Civic Theatre); and V-Day Arts Events (Queen Bee Productions).

The ceremonies also will include a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The presentation will be produced by Elynmarie Kazle of Weathervane Community Playhouse, Jim Fippin of Coach House and Thackaberry, of Actors' Summit, who will be master of ceremonies. The awards program will include music and dancing.

Proceeds will support operating costs of the Akron Area Arts Alliance and Summit ArtSpace.

Jackson and Karla Schott will co-chair the event. Cost is \$125. For an invitation, call 330-376-8480.

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