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Pictured: Honoree Nell Painter and Victor Davson. Photo by Norman DeShong.

The sold out Newark Arts Honors Gala raised the bar!

Newark, NJ – April 11, 2017 – With the goal of celebrating the transformative power of the arts and recognizing the significant creative endeavors of four honorees, Newark Arts' annual fundraising gala on March 29, 2017 surpassed all expectations for fundraising, networking and festivity. Hosted at the beautiful Avenue A Club in the Ironbound section of Newark, the sold out crowd of close to 400 guests enjoyed farm-to-table food, craft cocktails, live music and curated art.



Photo by Norman DeShong. Courtesy of Newark Arts.

During the event, which was hosted by "Empire" actor and arts activist Tobias Truvillion, Medals for the Arts were conferred to honorees, Willie Cole, Paquito D'Rivera, Richard Meier and Nell Painter.



Pictured: Vivian Lee (accepting on behalf of Honoree Richard Meier) and Co-Chair Ron Beit. Photo by Norman DeShong.

"The Newark Arts Honors Gala was a bona fide success!" said Jeremy Johnson, Executive Director of Newark Arts. "Not only did we meet our fundraising goal and enjoy a lively capacity crowd, but we demonstrated that there is genuine support for and an understanding of the value of arts and culture to this city and the nation at large."



Pictured: Margaret El and Honoree Willie Cole. Photo by Norman DeShong.

"We are always delighted to serve as the host venue for great events with a great cause," said Paulo Matos, Owner, The Avenue A Club. "The Newark Arts Honors Gala was definitely one of those events that attendees will be talking about for many years to come."



Pictured: Amy Niles and Honoree Paquito D'Rivera. Photo by Norman DeShong.

During the gala program, Newark Arts debuted an exciting three minute video featuring tap legend Savion Glover, Rutgers-Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor and many more. Check out "Newark Arts Makes an Impact!" on Youtube at https://youtu.be/Gj1FM_j3u5s or by visiting newarkarts.org.



Pictured: Dupre "Doital" Kelly, Tobias Truvillion, Michele Morgan-Truvillion, Jerry Gant and Chike Uzoka. Photo by Norman DeShong.

About Newark Arts (formerly Newark Arts Council): Newark Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization created to advance and expand the artistic and cultural resources of the City of Newark, New Jersey. The Council's mission is to bring the transformative power of the arts into the lives of those who live in, work in, and visit Newark. The Council is the umbrella for the Newark Arts Education Roundtable (NAER) and is a partner with the Mayor's Office of Cultural Development, Arts, and Tourism. The Council awards neighborhood grants through its ArtStart program, produces the Open Doors Citywide Arts Festival every October, and will oversee Newark's Community Cultural Plan in 2017-2018. For more information, visit www.newarkarts.org.

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