

Compiled By
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Culture

MUSIC, ART & LITERATURE



Against All Odds: The Rise of Newark's Art & Culture

Against all odds, the City of Newark and its culture survived the riot of 1967 and arose from the ashes to become New Jersey's cultural capital, the home of our quintessential performance and visual arts community. With a mix of urban scenery and artistic expression, Newark has recaptured the aesthetic quality of its cultural history. The revitalization of Newark was spurred on, in large part, by the abundance of cultural entities within our boundaries. If you haven't already, we encourage you to explore, support, and enjoy our artistic community by visiting the numerous venues Newark offers.

Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art

591 Broad St, Newark 973-622-1600, www.aljira.org

Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, supports and encourages activity in the visual arts and develops high caliber spaces for New Jersey artists while promoting cross-cultural dialog and networking between local artisans. Edwin Ramoran, director of Exhibitions and Programs, expressed the importance of Aljira's "Emerge" program which connects seasoned professional artists with students in intensive career and professional development workshops, teaching the business end of art. Aljira Design (AD) is their graphic design studio rooted in the arts. It provide design work for print media and has serviced many organizations, such as the Newark Museum, NJPAC, and SOPAC.

City Without Walls: Urban Artists Collective (CWOW)

6 Crawford Street, Newark, (973) 622-1188, www.cwow.org

City Without Walls is New Jersey's oldest not-for-profit alternative art space. It offers career development opportunities to emerging artists, while providing the public a chance to enjoy challenging contemporary art. A fine art gallery showcases the work of over 100 artists a year. The "ArtReach" education program pairs high school art students with working-artist mentors, and offers other students gallery internships. Don't miss the current exhibition, *On Every Wall*, which explores the relationship between originals and reproductions as part of a new venture to broaden consumer access to contemporary art.

Institute of Jazz Studies

Rutgers University, John Cotton Dana Library,

185 University Ave., Newark, (973) 353-5595,

<http://newarkwww.rutgers.edu/IJS>

As noted by Lynn Mullins, Director, John Cotton Dana Library, "The world-renowned Institute of Jazz Studies is the largest and most comprehensive library and archive of jazz and jazz-related materials in the world." The Institute is used by students, teachers, scholars, authors, musicians, the media, and record companies. Its overall mission is to promote, preserve, and extend the heritage of this unique American art form.

Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District (LPCCD)

9-11 Crawford St. #3, Newark, (973) 242-4144,

www.lpccd.org



Gospel artist Richard Smallwood performing at the Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District Festival

Photo courtesy LPCCD

The Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District (LPCCD) is working to create a community that includes art, culture, environmental sustainability, and performance spaces. At the July 2nd Annual Lincoln Park Music Festival, LPCCD was host to an amazing 15,000 people. Deputy Director Anthony Smith remarked, "There's a spirituality that's connected to music and you could feel it in the festival." The LPCCD has exciting plans to build a Museum of African-American Music (MoAAM), which will house musical genres ranging from gospel to hip-hop all under one roof. The museum will include a children's music gallery, a music café, a performance gallery, and recording studios.

Newark Museum

49 Washington Street, Newark, (973) 596-6550,

www.newarkmuseum.com

As New Jersey's largest museum, the Newark Museum boasts 80 galleries of world-class collections, as well as, a national historic landmark, the Victorian Ballantine House. Children delight in the Mini Zoo that let's them come face-to-face with live animals from around the world or they may trek to the stars in the planetarium. The Newark Museum also houses a soothing sculpture garden, a museum shop and a café. Upcoming events include the 40th Anniversary Commemoration of the Newark Civil Unrest of 1967. An African Gallery is among its permanent galleries, which also include Asian, American and Contemporary art. Each July the Museum is host to the three-week Newark Black Film Festival, which attracts cinema aficionados from throughout New Jersey and New York.



Ensemble of a royal or noble (possibly belonging to King Behanzin), late 19th century Republic of Benin; Fon Cotton, silk.g Behanzin).

Photo courtesy of Newark Museum

Newark Public Library

5 Washington St., Newark, (973) 733-7784, www.npl.org

Founded in 1889, the Newark Public Library is the state's largest public library and home to over one million volumes, computer and internet access, audio and video tapes, and more. Their upcoming special programs include Hooray for Children, a fun-filled affair of quality live performances by puppeteers, musicians, storytellers and theater groups; A Gala Showing of Original Prints a major exhibition from its Special Collections Department, and the Hispanic Heritage Celebration 2007 that showcases the cultural traditions and American experiences of the Ecuadorian community with music, dance, literature, theater, film, and children's programming.

Newark School of the Arts (NSA)

89 Lincoln Park, Newark, (973) 642-0133,

www.newarkschoolofthearts.org

The Newark School of the Arts (NSA) is a family-oriented school providing education in music, dance, drama, and the visual arts. It has served 36,000 individuals since its inception, and provides education for nearly 1,000 students each week. NSA's impressive plans include adding a 150-seat theater. In October the Friends of NSA 18th Annual "Look Who's Cooking" Benefit features men of distinction offering up their culinary specialties for an afternoon of excitement, elegance, goodwill and good food to benefit the Newark School of the Arts.

Newark Symphony Hall

1020 Broad St, Newark, (973) 643-4550,

www.newarksymphonyhall.org

An historic landmark built in 1925, Symphony Hall is often referred to as the other performing arts center in Newark. "Symphony Hall has a long history for social events, parties, dances, high school graduations and church services," new Executive Director Philip Thomas said. This community jewel offers rich artistic cultural performances that attract widely diverse audiences throughout the year. Symphony Hall houses the 2800-seat Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall and the 1000-seat Terrace Ballroom. Stay tuned for November's Jazz Marathon starring a dozen area artists - from Rufus Reid to Savion Glover taking place in Symphony Hall's famous Terrace Ballroom.

NJ Historical Society

52 Park Place, Newark, (973) 596-8500,

www.jerseyhistory.org

Founded in 1845, the NJ Historical Society is the oldest cultural institution in the state. Its historical museum,

continued on next page

Newark Art & Culture

continued from previous page



library, and archives are dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the rich and intricate political, social, cultural and economic history of New Jersey. Through exhibitions, publications, and programming, the Historical Society examines the unique contributions New Jerseyans make to the country. Don't miss the *What's Going On? Newark* and the *Legacy of the Sixties* exhibition, which explores the social forces that led to the outbreak of urban unrest in 1967.

NJ Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

One Center St., Newark, (888) GO-NJPAC, www.njpac.org
NJPAC is recognized for spearheading the revitalization of Newark. Now celebrating its tenth anniversary, the world-class performing arts and community focused cultural complex has attracted over 3.5 million patrons (including 700,000 children) who come to see artists of national and international acclaim. Since its grand opening in 1997, NJPAC's two theaters—the 2,750-seat Prudential Hall and the 514-seat Victoria Theater have been filled by some of the world's most cherished vocal, orchestral, dance, theater, and instrumental artists. The sixth largest performing arts center in the United States, NJPAC has gleaned national attention for its diverse programming, multi-farious audiences, arts education programs, the renewal of Newark nightlife, and economic expansion in the community.

NJPAC has an exciting line-up of events during this tenth anniversary season. In October alone there is the kid-friendly Broadway blockbuster, a Year with Frog and Toad (Oct. 12, 13 & 14); Newark's own Queen Latifah, the brilliant actress, jazz singer and HipHop artist will perform with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on the 20th for their fundraising gala. The Ballet Defolklorico of Mexico on the 26th, Paquito D'Rivera on the 27th, a delightful cabaret show, *The Guys Have It* takes place in the intimate Oak Room also on the 27th and features Jason Graae, Darius De Haas and Phillip Officer. The St. Petersburg Philharmonic (Russia) takes the stage in the grand Prudential Hall

The Newark community sees itself as worth saving, resulting in recognition as the next great place to be. Our city is bursting with the region's best in music, dance, the visual arts, and theater and sports. A visit to Bears Stadium to see the Newark Bears semi-pro baseball team in action is a fun experience for the whole family. With the soon-to-open Prudential Center Arena (see pages ___) hosting the New Jersey Devils, and a

on the 28th. Throughout the year, such world renowned artists as Ahmad Jamal and Ramsey Lewis, Calypsonian David Rudder; Hip Hop, funk jazz and classical violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain, pianist Geri Allen, and singer Nnenna Freelon among many others will also grace NJPAC stages.

Trilogy: An Opera Company

30 Howard Ct., Newark, (973) 985-5881,

www.trilogyaoc.homestead.com

Kevin Maynor, with his the gifted operatic bass voice, is well known in concert halls and opera houses around the globe. Trilogy: An Opera Company, Maynor's passionate give-back to the community, focuses on the works of African American composers, as well as works reflective of the black experience featuring artists from around the world. He is currently preparing the third and final phase of the avant-garde opera based on the tragic story of Emmett Till, the young boy who was murdered in 1955 in Mississippi for whistling at a white woman, the second phase of which was performed on the banks of the Passaic River in Newark this past July. *Music for Emmet Till: The Opera* is written by Charles Lloyd Jr. with libretto by esteemed poet, Sonia Sanchez. *Emmett Till* will be performed with orchestra, ballet, chorus and soloists in the summer of 2008.

WBGO/Jazz 88.3FM

54 Park Place, Newark, 973-624-8880, www.wbgo.org

WBGO is a listener supported, cultural institution that champions jazz and presents news to a worldwide audience through radio, the internet and events. A Free Kids' Jazz Series happening every Saturday in October in Manhattan, Newark, Maplewood and Jersey City is one way they reach out to the community. WBGO's award-winning news and information programs is another. These programs keep WBGO listeners abreast of the important news of the day, and its features on music and musicians are interesting and educational. A recent exhibit in the WBGO Art Gallery featured rare photographs of the 1967 Newark riots by renowned photographer Ben Fernandez; another displayed old covers of Ebony magazine. WBGO's dedication to jazz and the communities it serves is expressed best by Music Director Gary Walker who says we must "keep it for years to come!" We urge you to become a member of WBGO and help keep Jazz, an original African American art form alive!

marvelous array of performers scheduled, new restaurants and small businesses opening at a steady clip, and cultural stops connected by the Newark City Light Rail, Newark has been reborn.

We encourage you to support Newark's cultural community. For further information on these organizations, please call or visit their websites. ■

Queen Latifah