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## **Main Line Art Center Honored with Award for Accessible Art Programs for People with Disabilities**

HAVERFORD, PA (March 17, 2015) – Main Line Art Center is proud to announce that the Center is a 2015 recipient of Art-Reach's Commitment to Cultural Access Award for their Accessible Art Programs. Now in their 51<sup>st</sup> year, these programs serve children and adults with disabilities, at-risk youth, and low income families both onsite at Main Line Art Center and through community partners including the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Chester, Elwyn, Judith Creed Homes for Adult Independence (JCHAI), theVillage, and PA School for the Deaf.

Each year, Art-Reach, a Philadelphia-based non-profit, honors organizations or individuals in the Greater Philadelphia area who are doing extraordinary work in alignment with their mission to make the arts accessible. In addition to Main Line Art Center, People's Light and Theatre Company, a non-profit theatre based in Malvern, has also been named as a recipient of the award this year. Both organizations will be recognized at the 2015 Commitment to Cultural Access Awards Celebration on Saturday, March 28, at Main Line Art Center from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm.

Main Line Art Center is recognized as a leader among its peers due to its longstanding commitment to fostering the inclusion of people of all ages, abilities, and skill levels. Within the Art Center's historical building in Haverford, Main Line Art Center offers the Exceptional Art

Program for children, teens, and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities. Working with a variety of media like clay, paint, and collage, students build cognitive, physical, and social skills and are given an important outlet for self-expression. Experienced Teaching Artists work alongside a team of volunteers to provide one-on-one instruction and attention. Participants flourish in this supportive and fun environment and often stay with the program for many years. Main Line Art Center also partners with organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area to provide visual arts programs for their participants.

“We are so honored to receive this Commitment to Cultural Access Award from Art-Reach as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Accessible Art Programs for children and adults with disabilities,” says Amie Potsic, Executive Director, Main Line Art Center. “It is especially meaningful to be recognized for these programs because it is also a testament to the teaching artists, volunteers, and supportive partner organizations who share our commitment to arts accessibility and fulfilling our mission of Art for Everyone.”

This Spring, Main Line Art Center will present exhibitions featuring the work Accessible Art participants in their Welcome Gallery, as well as Ludington Library and Bryn Mawr Hospital. The Center will host a Sensory Garden Party and Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser on Saturday, May 30 from 1-3 pm. The event is free to the public, and will be held in the Center’s Sensory Garden which was unveiled last spring in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Accessible Art Programs.

**Main Line Art Center** is our community’s home to discover, create, and experience visual art. From award-winning visual art classes, to contemporary and innovative exhibitions, you can count on quality and expect the unexpected at Main Line Art Center. The mission of the Center is to inspire and engage artistic creativity for all ages and abilities and celebrate and strengthen the essential role of visual art in community life. Last year Main Line Art Center inspired 16,000 people through their on-site programs and touched the lives of over 80,000 through their work in the community. Main Line Art Center is located at 746 Panmure Road in Haverford, behind the Wilkie Lexus dealership just off of Lancaster Avenue. The Art Center is easily accessible from public transportation and offers abundant free parking. For more information, please visit [www.mainlineart.org](http://www.mainlineart.org) or call 610.525.0272.

**Art-Reach** is a Philadelphia-based non-profit established in 1986 to make the arts of our region more accessible to people that lack access to our cultural organizations because of a disability, economic disadvantage, or other adversity. Through ticketed live arts events, on-site workshops, and a variety of services, Art-Reach empowers over 17,000 traditionally underserved individuals, of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to creatively participate in their communities, every year. For tickets and more information about the Awards, visit [www.art-reach.org](http://www.art-reach.org).

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