Statewide Advocacy Association to Launch Regional Recognition in the Valley

CreativeOhio to host Champion Advocacy Awards Luncheon on October 20th

YOUNGSTOWN, OH – CreativeOhio (previously Ohio Citizens for The Arts) announces taking its newly revamped Champion Award Luncheon on the road in 2023. The CO-Champion Award Ceremony, historically held in Columbus, Ohio, honors Ohioans that enrich their community, citizens, and culture through constant advocacy and relentless support of creatives. The relaunched advocacy recognition ceremony will be held annually in a different region of Ohio, with the Youngstown/Warren Mahoning Valley region being chosen as its first location. The ceremony will take place at The Lake Club on October 20th, 2023, and will honor recipients from the Youngstown/Warren Mahoning Valley Region.

Awards will be granted in the following categories:

- **Arts Educator Champion**
  - An individual has made a significant impact on arts education.

- **Artist Champion**
  - An individual has made a significant impact in the creative arts sector.

- **Individual Advocate Champion**
  - An individual has increased public awareness of the importance of arts advocacy.

- **Business Advocate Champion**
  - A business has increased public awareness of the importance of arts advocacy.

Nominations for all categories are open now until June 15th. Downloadable nomination forms are available at CreativeOhio.org and can be submitted via email to nominations@creativeoh.org

CreativeOhio, the leading statewide advocate for the creative sector, works to empower, energize, and establish creativity as a core economic driver at both the regional and state level. These awards are part of their efforts to expand recognition for advocates around the state, as they believe advocacy works best locally.

“CreativeOhio has undergone an expansion of service. With the new name, new mission, and broader reach across the state, we have broadened our focus to include recognition of the local efforts of advocates on a larger scale. While the impact of their work is felt statewide, we should recognize and honor them in their communities. This is the foundation of our mission. CreativeOhio is a power beyond one,” said Angela Meleca, Executive Director of CreativeOhio.

Eric Ryan, who sits on the board of directors of CreativeOhio, and the president of valley based JAC Live, adds, “It is exciting that CreativeOhio picked the Mahoning Valley to host the Inaugural Champion Award ceremony held outside of the city of Columbus. The fact that the ceremony will be held here in the Valley, where there is such a rich heritage of arts and culture, is remarkable. More importantly, our valley has many potential nominees who have dedicated much of their lives to the creative arts sectors. We look forward to receiving nominations and honoring these deserving recipients on October 20th.”

Award recipients will be announced publicly on July 14th and on October 20th, the first regional iteration of the CreativeOhio Champion Award ceremony will be held at The Lake Club.

For more information about the awards, nomination process, sponsorship opportunities, or reservations, please visit CreativeOhio.org or reach out to CreativeOhio Champion Award Coordinator Phoebe Breckenridge at pbreckenridge@jacmg.com

Event Produced by JAC Live