



Thursday, October 23, 2025
ArtsQuest Center, Musikfest Café



**Celebrating Marlene “Linny” Fowler’s
Legacy and our flourishing art community!**



Welcome to the 2025 Linny Awards! On behalf of the ArtsQuest Foundation, thank you for celebrating Linny Fowler's legacy, our Linny Award recipients, and the ArtsQuest Foundation's mission with us.

The ArtsQuest Foundation was founded in 2002 to meet the ongoing need for long term support of ArtsQuest and the 1,600 free artistic, cultural, and educational programs it offers.

The ArtsQuest Foundation was inaugurated with a generous \$1 million endowment from Marlene O. "Linny" Fowler, an artist and philanthropist who was the co-founder of ArtsQuest's Banana Factory Arts Center. Since Linny's gift, the Foundation has created the following endowment funds to support ArtsQuest's need: Musikfest & Performing Arts Fund, Visual Arts Fund, Education & Scholarship Fund and Legacy Fund.

Because of Linny's generous spirit, the Foundation sought to honor her with this award ceremony. How better to recognize Linny's work than to highlight our vibrant arts community which she helped create.

Congratulations to our wonderful 2025 Linny Awards recipients. Their talents, time, treasures and/or ties given to the art community have not gone unnoticed. These individuals were selected because in their own way they reflect Linny's commitment to and passion for our community.

Thank you for being part of this evening's festivities. By coming together, we support the ArtsQuest Foundation's mission to ensure ArtsQuest and its programs will be here for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Cort", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason Cort

Chair, ArtsQuest Foundation



5:00 – 6:00 P.M. COCKTAIL HOUR

Musical Performance by Madelyn Dundon

6:00 – 9:00 P.M. DINNER AND PROGRAM

Welcome – Kassie Hilgert, President & CEO, ArtsQuest

Emerging Artist of the Year Award Presenter – John Gagge

Emerging Artist of the Year Award – Jake Supreme

Performance by Jake Supreme

Performing Artist of the Year Award Presenter – Patrick Brogan

Performing Artist of the Year Award – Matt Pfeiffer

Performance by Matt Pfeiffer

Visual Artist of the Year Award Presenter – Lisa Harms

Visual Artist of the Year Award – Mallory Zondag

Student Artist Scholarship Award Presenter – Jason Cort

Student Artist Scholarship Award – Todd Croslis

Performance by Todd Croslis

Remarks by ArtsQuest

Dessert Presentation by Chef Julie Marble, Levy Restaurants

Arts Educator of the Year Award Presenter – Peron Development

Arts Educator of the Year Award – MaryJo Rosania Harvie

Volunteer of the Year Award Presenter – Bob Oster

Volunteer of the Year Award – Jada Amirah Lewis

Business Supporter of the Arts Award Presenter – Air Products

Business Supporter of the Arts Award – PPL Foundation

Philanthropy in the Arts Award Presenter – Kassie Hilgert

Philanthropy in the Arts Award – Chuck Stehly

Lifetime Achievement Award Presenter – Valley National Financial Advisors

Lifetime Achievement Award – Thomas M Riddle CPA, CFP

Closing Comments – Kassie Hilgert, President & CEO, ArtsQuest



Marlene “Linny” Fowler

A Legacy of Art, Compassion, and Community

Marlene “Linny” Fowler was more than a philanthropist, she was a force for good in the Lehigh Valley, a champion of the arts and a tireless advocate for equity, education and access.

A trained biologist and practicing artist, Linny met her husband Beall Fowler while attending college—she at Skidmore, he at Lehigh. They eventually made Bethlehem their home when Beall joined the Lehigh University faculty in the physics department. Though she focused on raising their four children for many years, Linny’s lifelong passion for helping others and supporting the arts never wavered. Once her children were grown, she dove even deeper into service, devoting her time, talent and financial support to dozens of local nonprofits.

Linny’s dedication extended across the entire Lehigh Valley. She was a vital supporter of organizations such as the Allentown Art Museum, ArtsQuest, Baum School of Art, Northampton Community College, the State Theatre, Valley Youth House and many more. But her focus always returned to a singular purpose: ensuring that every child, especially those from underserved communities, had access to meaningful education and artistic experiences.

One of her most enduring contributions was the creation of the Banana Factory Arts Center in 1998. Thanks to her leadership and generosity, the facility expanded in 2002 and remains a thriving creative hub today. Linny also established an endowment to support ArtsQuest’s long-term mission, leading to the founding of the ArtsQuest Foundation.

Linny passed away in 2013, but her spirit continues to inspire everyone who believes in the transformative power of the arts. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched, the institutions she supported and the doors she opened for future generations.

The Linny Awards were created to celebrate not only the individuals and organizations shaping our region’s cultural future, but to carry forward the compassion, creativity and community-minded leadership that Linny modeled so beautifully.



Emerging Artist of the Year Award **Jake Supreme**

Jake Supreme is a visionary artist, executive and cultural builder redefining independent music in the Lehigh Valley. Raised in Pittsburgh with roots in Baltimore and Harrisburg, his journey began on the drums before evolving into a mission to fuse hip-hop, soul and storytelling into art that uplifts and inspires.

At Kutztown University, a chance roommate pairing with vocalist Exodus sparked the creation of Manifest! HB, a hip-hop soul duo whose campus performances quickly gained momentum. Their partnership grew into Abstract Music Empire Entertainment, the creative house and label Jake now co-leads as co-CEO.

Through Abstract, Jake has worked to break down barriers for hip-hop in underrepresented spaces. The team has produced music videos featured on MTV, VH1 and BET Jams, secured performances at Musikfest (2021, 2022, 2024), and in 2025, Manifest! HB opened for Grammy-winner Nelly.

As a solo artist, Jake is recognized for his balance of raw lyricism and hopeful expression, shifting perceptions of hip-hop by proving it belongs at family-friendly and culturally rich events alike. Beyond the stage, he is developing infrastructure for the next generation of creatives, including a new hub for recording, production, workshops and brand-building designed to help artists own their craft and thrive independently.

Whether performing, producing or mentoring, Jake's message is consistent: articulate your dream and never give up. Receiving the 2025 Linny Award for Emerging Artist of the Year marks not just a milestone, but a launching point for the impact still to come.



Performing Artist of the Year Award

Matt Pfeiffer

Matt Pfeiffer was born and raised in Philadelphia and has worked professionally in theater for more than 25 years. A proud resident of the Lehigh Valley, he has been a core artist with the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival for 26 seasons, performing in and directing over 50 productions. He has also directed 10 WillPower educational tours, reaching thousands of students across Pennsylvania.

His regional credits include Arden Theatre, People's Light & Theatre, Lantern Theatre, InterAct, 1812 Productions, Delaware Theatre Company, Theatre Horizon, Walnut Street Theatre, Bristol Riverside, Orlando Shakespeare, The Gulfshore Playhouse, Villanova University, Philadelphia Theatre Company and DeSales University, among others.

Matt is a 13-time Barrymore Award nominee and the recipient of two Barrymore Awards for Best Director for *The Whale* and *The Invisible Hand* with Theatre Exile. He is also widely recognized for his acclaimed portrayal of Philadelphia sportswriter Ray Didinger in the autobiographical play *Tommy and Me*.

A 1999 graduate of DeSales University, Matt is a past recipient of the F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist.



Visual Artist of the Year Award

Mallory Zondag

Mallory Zondag is a mixed-media fiber artist and educator whose work transforms textiles into sculptural explorations of nature, connection and storytelling. Through the meditative practices of wet felting, weaving, stitching and sculpting, she creates dimensional works that reflect the cycles of growth and decay, the tension between attraction and discomfort and humanity's place within the natural world.

Her work has been exhibited regionally, nationally and internationally, including at The Banana Factory and Allentown Art Museum (PA), The Whitney Museum of American Art and El Museo del Barrio (NYC), Phoenix Art Museum (AZ), Cornell University (NY) and The International Biennial of Textile Art Scythia (Ukraine). She has also served as Artist-in-Residence at Acadia National Park, The Allentown Art Museum and The Wassaic Project (NY).

Equally dedicated to arts education, Mallory has brought collaborative fiber arts programs to more than twenty schools and community organizations. Her signature project, Fiber Living Wall, invites students of all ages and abilities to co-create hand-felted wool installations that remain as permanent works within their communities, emphasizing creativity, collaboration and belonging.

Her contributions to the arts have been recognized with three New York Statewide Capital Re grants for Independent Artists and Community Arts, as well as a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Creative Excellence and Support in Pennsylvania. Her work is included in private collections and held by institutions such as The Whitney Museum of American Art, Acadia National Park and The Allentown Art Museum.

Mallory earned her BFA in Fashion Design from Pratt Institute in 2016.



Student Art Scholarship Award

Todd Croslis

Todd Croslis is a recent graduate of the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts and an aspiring multi-hyphenate theater artist. This fall, he will attend NYU's Tisch School of the Arts to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama.

Passionate about acting, directing, stage managing, producing, designing and teaching, Todd has explored nearly every facet of theater both at his alma mater and at the Civic Theatre of Allentown. Among his favorite credits on and off the stage are The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Sound of Music, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, The Laramie Project, A Little Night Music, Blood at the Root, The SpongeBob Musical, Indecent, Rent, Falsettos, Fun Home and Billy Elliot.

Recently, Todd originated roles in new works including Ladies, How Dare You! and The Oscars: A Conversation Among Friends.

He is especially drawn to the intersection of activism and art and is committed to creating and uplifting bold new work that pushes boundaries, sparks dialogue and inspires change.



Arts Educator of the Year Award

MaryJo Rosania Harvie

Presented by:  PERON
DEVELOPMENT

Dr. MaryJo Rosania Harvie is an artist, educator and advocate whose career in art education spans K–12 schools, higher education and community-based programs. For seventeen years, she taught high school art, building inclusive, student-centered classrooms that nurtured creativity, confidence and connection.

Her teaching excellence led to leadership roles as Visual and Performing Arts Supervisor for the North Hunterdon-Voorhees School District and later as Chief of Artistic Programs and Events and Co-Principal at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. Today, she serves as Assistant Professor of Art and Director of Art Education at Moravian University.

MaryJo earned her MFA in Studio Art from Vermont College of Fine Arts (2005) and an EdD in Transformational Teaching and Learning from Kutztown University (2022). She is also a rostered teaching artist with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, an ArtsQuest teaching artist, and an active member of ArtsQuest's Visual Arts Board and committees.

Her current research explores how the arts build community in classrooms and support wellness across all ages. She shares this work through writing and national conference presentations and contributes to the Fred Rogers' Institute Educators' Neighborhood, a global community inspired by Rogers' vision for inclusive, caring systems. She also serves on the Board of the Pennsylvania Art Education Association as Website and Communications Chair.

Continuing her own learning journey, MaryJo is pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work at Moravian University, expanding her mission to harness the arts as a transformative bridge across disciplines, generations and lived experiences.



Volunteer of the Year Award

Jada Amirah Lewis

Jada Amirah Lewis is a passionate youth advocate, hydroponic gardener and rising leader in sustainable agriculture and social justice. Born and raised in Allentown, she was first introduced to hydroponic gardening at age seven, an early spark that inspired her to launch Amirah's Hope Hydroponic Garden, a youth-led initiative addressing food insecurity while empowering her peers.

By 16, Jada had already founded Amirah's Hope Organization, expanding its reach across the Lehigh Valley and into Charlotte, NC. In 2025, the initiative became a recognized UNICEF USA organization, and her work has drawn attention from leaders as far-reaching as Sierra Leone and the United Nations.

Her blend of science, service and advocacy has made her a sought-after speaker at universities, conferences, and community events, while her volunteerism has earned national recognition, including the President's Volunteer Service Award (2019) and Lifetime Achievement Award (2020).

Jada is equally ambitious academically. A full-time student at Northampton Community College with a 4.0 GPA, she is pursuing a degree in psychology with the goal of becoming an FBI forensic profiler, combining her passion for understanding the human mind with her commitment to systemic change.

Through workshops and mentoring, Jada empowers other young people to explore hydroponics, nutrition, and social responsibility, creating a growing network of youth-powered sustainable agriculture across Bethlehem, Allentown, Easton and beyond.

Grounded, dynamic and inclusive in her leadership, Jada exemplifies the power of grassroots action and reminds us that lasting change often begins with a single seed of inspiration.



Business Supporter of the Arts Award **PPL Foundation**

Presented by: **PRODUCTS** AIR 

The PPL Foundation empowers communities by supporting student success from cradle to career and fostering vibrant, sustainable communities. Giving back is central to PPL's mission, reflected in its ongoing commitment to invest time and resources in the places where its employees live and work.

Through strategic partnerships, the Foundation supports nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island that are driving innovative and impactful change. Its focus areas include education, inclusion, community development, public safety and environmental sustainability.

In 2024 alone, the PPL Foundation contributed more than \$6.5 million to over 400 nonprofit organizations. From scholarships and school supplies to public safety initiatives and environmental programs, these investments are rooted in the belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to thrive.



Philanthropy in the Arts Award

Chuck Stehly

R. Charles "Chuck" Stehly is a lifelong Lehigh Valley leader, entrepreneur and dedicated community volunteer. He co-founded C-Link in 2015 and currently serves as Director of Business Development for Premier Environments. He previously led Stehly Woodcrafts and SignCorp as President.

An Easton native, Chuck is a graduate of Easton High School, Northampton Community College and Muhlenberg College. He is deeply engaged in civic and nonprofit leadership, currently serving on the Boards of the Keystone Savings Foundation, Priority One and Fidelity Bank's Lehigh Valley Advisory Board. He is also Vice President of the Wildlife Leadership Academy and a Trustee of Northampton Community College.

His extensive past board service includes leadership roles with the State Theatre of Easton, VIA of the Lehigh Valley, First Night Bethlehem, Bethlehem Senior Citizens Council, Musikfest Association, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, LVEDC and Wesley Church, among many others. He has also advised organizations including the Children's Home of Easton and KidsPeace.

Chuck's decades of service have been recognized with numerous honors, including Bethlehem's Distinguished Service Award (1985), Northampton Community College Alumnus of the Year (1994) and Distinguished Service Award (2003), LVEDC's Most Valuable Player Award (2012) and NCC's Community Fabric Award (2012). In 2017, he was celebrated as a Distinguished Alumnus during NCC's 50th Anniversary.

He and his wife, Wendy, reside in Bethlehem Township and are proud parents of two children and grandparents of two.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Thomas M Riddle CPA, CFP®

Founder & Chairman, Valley National Advisors

Presented by:  **VALLEY NATIONAL**
FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Thomas “Tom” M. Riddle has more than 40 years of experience in finance and a career marked by leadership, expertise and community service. He began his professional path as a Bank Examiner for the U.S. Treasury Department before serving as Senior Accountant at KPMG, Corporate Controller of Johnson March Corporation and Vice President of Finance at Hospital Central Services. In 1985, he founded Valley National Financial Advisors, where he continues to serve as Founder and Chairman.

Tom’s vision for Valley National was to create a one-stop firm where clients could receive trusted guidance on all aspects of their financial lives, from investments and inheritance to everyday decisions like navigating inflation or buying a car. With strong processes and a dedicated team in place, Tom now focuses less on administration and more on what he values most: close, ongoing relationships with his clients.

A proud resident and advocate of Bethlehem, Tom came to the Lehigh Valley from Western Pennsylvania to play football at Lafayette College, where he earned his BA in Mathematics and Economics. He later received his MBA from Lehigh University, achieving the highest score in Pennsylvania on the CPA exam.

Tom’s professional credentials include Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Financial Planner (CFP®), Investment Adviser Representative of Valley National Advisors, Inc. and Registered Representative of Valley National Investments, Inc.

His commitment extends beyond business. He has served on the boards of Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites, the ArtsQuest Foundation (as Chair) and the Minsi Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a past president of the NE Pennsylvania Society of Certified Financial Planners.

Tom’s excellence has been recognized with the Alexander E. Loeb Gold Medal Award (1977) and as a 2020 Lehigh Valley Business ICON Honoree.



2025 Linny Award Cocktail Hour Performance Madelyn Dundon

Madelyn Dundon is an actress, singer, dancer, and archivist. Her vintage style, temperate voice, and eloquent range are reminiscent of a timeless era, spotlighting melodies of the Great American Songbook and memories of stylized greats in the musical developments of the twentieth century.

Her debut album, **"Love, Madelyn"** is streaming everywhere.

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Save the Date!

2026 Linny Awards | Thursday, October 15, 2026

We'd love to celebrate with you again next year! The Linny Awards celebrate the creative spirit of our region. For 2026, we're looking to expand that spirit with brand new award categories from the creative industries and we want your input! Click [HERE](#) to vote on which categories of artists you think should be included next year!

Thank you for Celebrating with Us!

We're so grateful you joined us in honoring the incredible artists, visionaries, and community leaders who make our region shine. Your presence tonight helps fuel the creative spirit that defines ArtsQuest and makes experiences like the Linny Awards possible.

Event Photos

Relive the magic of the evening! Photos captured by Ted Colegrove will be available within one week. Visit to view and download your favorites.



Make an Impact

If you didn't have a chance to complete a pledge card during tonight's event, there's still time to support the arts in our community. Every dollar makes a difference—whether it's \$100 to support after-school programming or \$200 to fund an art workshop. Learn more and [DONATE](#) today.

A special thank you to the following boards for choosing this year's winners

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Lifetime Achievement Award

Philanthropy in the Arts Award

Business Supporter of the Arts Award

Student Artist Scholarship Award

Emerging Artist of the Year Award

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Visual Artist of the Year Award

Arts Educator of the Year Award

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Performing Artist of the Year Award

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