

## 2023 INDIVIDUAL SERVICE TO THE ARTS AWARD RECIPIENT

# Dan Hostetler



Dan has been on the Medina County Arts Council Board for six and a half terms, serving as President and secretary several times. He worked with the Buckeye Community Theatre on their Madrigal Dinner program. He was on the committee and helped guide them through the meal portion of the program and guided the servers.

Dan worked with Nancy Sprowls to help Brunswick and Wadsworth organize the first year of their Spirits of the Past programs. He served as the liaison between the Medina Walk with Spirits of the Past and the Arts Council, even serving after he was off the Arts Council Board.

While on the Arts Council Board, Dan worked with the Medina County Art League to put on an Artist

Studio Tour with five studios open to the public. He helped several artists display their artwork in the old Grace Drake Center for the Arts.

Dan worked as Executive Director of the Medina County Visitors Bureau from its founding over 30 years ago until he retired in 2022. In his role at the Bureau he was able to promote all arts programs across the county. He promoted them in the Events Guide, posted arts events flyers in the office, and distributed information at any of the shows he attended.



## 2023 ORGANIZATION SERVICE TO THE ARTS AWARD RECIPIENT

# Planet Joy Studio



Debbie Apple-Presser

Planet Joy Studio, founded in 2018, started as a satellite of Passion Works Studio in Athens, Ohio. Founder Patty Mitchell is the driving force behind the idea that people with mental and physical differences are brimming with creativity, just like anyone else. After seeing her studio model, Dave Clardy Director of PeaceWorks (a company that offers support services for individuals with developmental disabilities) decided to take a chance and incorporate this cutting edge studio idea into his company. Like Patty Mitchell, he had the foresight and ability to see what can be invisible to others. Hand picked by Patty herself, Debbie Apple-Presser was given the honor of becoming lead artist and running the studio. Planet Joy Studio was named, then it took off like a wild horse out of the gate.

Planet Joy consists of 8 artists who started with lots of questions such as: “What is this place? Which colors should I use?” or “What do you think I should do?” Debbie’s answers were, “This is your studio, it’s a working art studio. Choose the colors that speak to you, and go with what you feel, what your gut says.” It took a minute, but Planet Joy soon became a well oiled working studio. The artists have become proficient in painting, drawing, choosing colors, silk screening, transferring images, and collaborating, with complete confidence in what they are creating. Throw in some spontaneous dancing, singing along with the music, and you are in the most joyful and inspiring place.

Before the pandemic Planet Joy was going gangbusters. They had a number of very successful shows at Spokes1: The Art Of Fine Dining, Have A Happy Holiday, the Art Walk and more. Planet Joy and Passion Works teamed up for a show at the Emily Davis Gallery at Akron University called Passion and Joy, where you could actually experience those feelings by walking through the gallery. They had a rather wild poetry slam and wrapped the trees around the square with their famous circle art. This past summer, their highlight was bringing in the internationally acclaimed sand sculptor, Carl Jara. You might have seen the gigantic shoe surrounded by fairies, at the square. They were also so proud of the Planet Joy art on the Arts Week banners that hung all around the square.

Planet Joy’s art decorates homes in Medina, Cleveland and across the United States. They are proud and honored to sell their art at Sideshow, the Museum Store at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, which by the way was voted best museum store in the USA. Invited guest artists have come from Cleveland to spend the day, teaching and inspiring them. Planet Joy would like to thank Dave Clardy for his willingness to take a chance, the whole staff at Peace Works, who couldn’t be more supportive and proud of all of their artists, and the community at large, who believe in their power of art. After all, Joy is what they bring, art is how they do it.



## 2023 ORGANIZATION SERVICE TO THE ARTS AWARD RECIPIENT

# *Access the Arts*

Access the Arts was established in 2018 as a non-profit with the primary purpose to provide opportunities that unite the community and offer a platform for those who would like to share their talents in all art forms to inspire others. They provide an exposure to the arts and interactive opportunities for at-risk youth, older adults, and those with special needs. They promote appreciation for and education in the fine and performing arts for people of all ages. They are funded by grants, corporate donations and contributions from individuals.

Access the Arts provides music and art lessons to afterschool students at the Lodi Family Center several days each week, as well as arts projects for the Medina County Home, ACP Day Center, and Integrated Community Solutions. They also provide music and art classes for the youth at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. AtA gathers the community by hosting several free concerts and the Sharon Showcase Art and Music Festival each year. Access the Arts believes the arts help us to celebrate differences, encourage creativity, and unite us with a common inspiration.

Many exciting events are coming to Sharon Center this summer! From the Music in the Circle summer concert series to the Sharon Showcase to Yoga in the Circle, the gazebo will be buzzing with opportunities to interact with the arts and your neighbors in the community!





*35th Annual*

THE MEDINA COUNTY

**ARTS**  
COUNCIL

*Service to the Arts  
Awards*

**& ANNUAL MEETING**

AN EVENING TO HONOR SUPPORTERS OF THE ARTS

**WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**WILLIAMS ON THE LAKE**

787 Lafayette Road  
Medina, Ohio