



Celebrating 51 Years of the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Sponsored by the Bergen County Department of Parks
Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs

Bergen Community College
Paramus, NJ
Friday – May 29, 2026

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PARAMUS, NJ



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Cover Illustration – Simona Guerriero – Bergen County Technical High School, Teterboro
Teacher: Bridget Centeno

Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs

Upcoming Division Arts Events

Cheryl Krouse, Deputy Director
Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs

Greg Lucente, Arts Coordinator

Elaine Gold, Historic Preservationist

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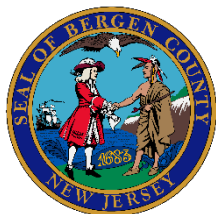
Tracy Miceli, Director of Community Affairs,
Bergen Community College

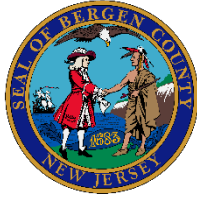
June 4- 25: 2026 Teen Arts Art Exhibit
Bergen County Administration Building Lobby
1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack
Viewing: 9 AM- 4:30 PM (Mon- Fri)

July 26, August 30, September 27, October 25:
Music at the Barn Concert Series
4:00pm-6:30pm
Oct 25: 1:00pm-3:30
Wortendyke Barn County Museum, 13 Pascack
Rd, Park Ridge

**October 10: 62nd Annual Bergen County Art in
the Park Show & Concert**
Van Saun County Park, Lot 4, Area F, Paramus
12:30 PM- 3:30 PM (rain date Sunday Oct 11)

The Bergen County Teen Arts Festival is a non-profit, joint project of Bergen County's Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs, Bergen Community College, the Bergen County Education Association, and the participating Bergen County schools. The Teen Arts Festival is funded in part through a grant from the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, under the Division's auspices. Bergen Community College is a wheelchair accessible facility.





BERGEN *County* NEW JERSEY

2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival



Bergen County is proud to support the 2026 Teen Arts Festival hosted by Bergen Community College in Paramus. This year marks the 51st annual celebration of the creativity, talent, and hard work of Bergen County's young artists.

The arts give students an important outlet to express themselves, explore new ideas, and build confidence through mediums such as music, theater, dance, poetry, painting, and more. Programs like Teen Arts help encourage that creativity while reminding young people that their voices and talents matter.

For generations, Bergen County has been home to remarkable artists, performers, and storytellers. The Teen Arts Festival continues that tradition by giving students an opportunity to share their work, learn from one another, and be recognized for their accomplishments. Just as importantly, it inspires the next generation to continue pursuing their creative passions.

Over the past five decades, more than 140,000 students, educators, and volunteers have participated in the Teen Arts Festival, reflecting the program's lasting impact on our county and our schools. This year's festival will feature more than 35 workshops and 180 performances, showcasing the incredible talent that exists throughout Bergen County.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's festival possible, especially the educators, volunteers, families, and mentors who continue to support arts education in our communities. Most of all, congratulations to all the students participating in this year's Teen Arts Festival. Bergen County is proud of all you have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing where your creativity takes you next.

Sincerely,
James J. Tedesco III
Bergen County Executive

**A Message from
Dr. Eric M. Friedman
President, Bergen Community College**



Dear Students,

Welcome to Bergen Community College!

Did you know that more than 600,000 students have passed through our doors? Many of them chose to pursue associate degrees and certificates, while others took advantage of winter, summer and dual enrollment programs that afforded them the opportunity to earn transferable credits accepted by the nation's top colleges and universities.

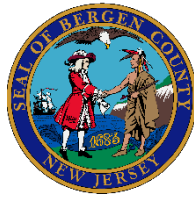
As you begin to explore your college options, I encourage you to add Bergen to your "short-list." At Bergen, you'll find a supportive community of learners, incredible faculty and unmatched resources. Those resources include a "one-stop" student service center recognized by the federal government - and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden during a visit in 2022 - a tutoring center ranked No. 1 in the nation and even the country's only community college STEM Student Research Center.

High-achieving students like you can also take advantage of programs that can make your Bergen education tuition-free! If you're in the top 15 percent of your high school class, you will qualify for the NJ STARS initiative. Meanwhile, programs like the Community College Opportunity Grant can pave the way for a tuition-free education too. You can even earn credits while still in high school through our dual enrollment programs.

To learn more about these programs, please visit our welcome center at the main campus or Bergen.edu. Not only do I hope that you enjoy your time on campus today, I hope this represents the first of many visits to Bergen!

Sincerely,
Dr. Eric M. Friedman
President, Bergen Community College

COUNTY OF BERGEN



James J. Tedesco, III

County Executive

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* * *

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Please visit our web page at:

<https://bergencountynj.gov/bergen-county-department-of-parks/teen-arts-program/>

Table of Contents

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Information and Special Thanks	Page 5
Special Art Exhibition Information	Page 6
Workshop Time Schedules.....	Pages 7 - 9
Workshop Descriptions:	
Creative Writing.....	Pages 10-11
Dance	Pages 11-13
Music.....	Pages 14-16
Theater.....	Pages 17-19
Visual Arts.....	Pages 20-24
Video.....	Page 25-26
Performances & Critique Schedules.....	Pages 27-33
Visual Arts Exhibit.....	Page 32
Participating Schools & School Liaisons.....	Page 33
Plan Your Day.....	Page 34
Gourmet Dining Services Food Tent Menu.....	Page 35
Maps, Pitkin Education Center (Main Building).....	Pages 36-37
Map, Bergen Community College.....	Inside Back Cover

For Your Information...

- Be On Time:** If you or your school is scheduled to perform at a certain time, please try to arrive at the performance site at least 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time. If you miss your performance time you will go to the end of the performance time slots so that others will not miss other commitments.
- Lost & Found:** Main Building: Teen Arts registration area near Campus Security office.
- Medical:** Medical Assistance is available in **Room HS 100**.
- Remember:** Be sure you have all your belongings before you leave campus.
- Bergen Community College:** The generosity of Bergen Community College is a gift. **Treat it well!** Learn! Applaud! Grow! Create! Explore all the arts here today. Do NOT litter, abuse, or damage buildings, bathrooms, or grounds. We want today to be a wonderful day for everybody. *Violators will be prosecuted.*
- Be Polite:** Please do not enter or leave a workshop or performance site after the artist or performers have started. It disrupts both the instructor and students attending or performing. Thank you.

Special Thanks To...

Our many loyal supporters and volunteers, without whom it would be impossible to present this fantastic celebration of the arts each year. We are grateful to the many artists for providing both guidance and direction; to our Moderators at the performance sites; to Bergen Community College for providing such excellent facilities and staff; to County Executive James J. Tedesco III; the Bergen County Board of Commissioners; the Bergen County Department of Parks and to the donors, contributors, and friends of Bergen County Teen Arts. On behalf of the thousands of students and teachers who attend annually, our deepest thanks.

Dr. Eric M. Friedman, President - Bergen Community College
Bergen County Superintendents Association
Tracy Miceli, Director of Community Affairs, Bergen Community College
Jessica Hartman – American Dining Creations, Bergen Community College
Sue McBride, President - Bergen County Education Association

Teen Arts Festival Special Art Exhibition

The Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs and Visual Art Adjudicators are proud to display a sampling of the talent of all students by additionally displaying a selected number of pieces of visual art from the festival. From all the art on display on the festival day, one work from each school will be selected to be exhibited in the lobby of the Bergen County Administration Building, Hackensack. The Bergen County Administration Building is an extremely busy place with thousands of workers and visitors passing through the lobby each week. It is an excellent location; each year many positive comments are made by visitors and employees.

The lobby exhibit will run from **Wednesday, June 3, 2026, through Thursday, June 25, 2026. There will be a reception for all participating artists in the exhibit Thursday evening, June 25, at 6 PM.** All parents and teachers are also invited. The reception will be at the Bergen County Administration Building.

The art will be removed on the morning of Thursday, June 19 and brought upstairs to the Cultural and Historic Affairs office on the fourth floor. **Any artist or teacher unable to attend the reception are expected to make arrangements to pick up their art in our office no later than Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 4pm. Teen Arts will not be responsible for any art left in the office after that date.**

Please note that no art can be displayed in the Administration Building lobby unless it is suitable for hanging, i.e. eyehooks & wire, and we have in our possession (on the day of the festival) a signed Release of Liability form from each artist and their parent(s).

If your piece has been chosen, you will find a note attached to your art saying that Teen Arts Staff will remove the art at the end of the day and bring it to our offices in preparation for the exhibit. All art chosen must have been prepared for hanging on our wire display panels, as well as having a Release of Liability form. **If you need to have your art prepared for hanging - YOU must get it done and bring it to our office no later than Tuesday, June 2, 2026, or it will not be included in the exhibition.**

Any questions concerning the art display should be addressed to:

Bergen County Department of Parks
Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs
Attn: Teen Arts Festival – Christina Holz
One Bergen County Plaza - 4th Floor
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601-7076
(201) 336-7252

Workshop Schedule - 2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival
(All workshops are 50 minutes in length unless otherwise indicated)

(For room locations – check maps at end of program or consult on-duty guides)

<u>Dance</u>		<u>Room</u>
9:15 AM	Indian Classical Dance	S246
9:30 AM	Hip Hop Fundamentals	Cafeteria
9:30 AM	Contemporary Dance	B202
9:45 AM	African Drumming and Dance	S253
10:30 AM	Indian Classical Dance	S246
10:30 AM	Hip Hop Fundamentals	Cafeteria
10:30 AM	Contemporary Dance	B202
11:00 AM	K-Pop	C106
11:30 AM	African Drumming and Dance	S253
12:15 PM	Indian Classical Dance	S246
12:15 PM	Contemporary Dance	B202
1:00 PM	Hip Hop Fundamentals	Cafeteria
12:30 PM	K-Pop	C106
12:45 PM	African Drumming and Dance	S253
1:30 PM	K-Pop	C106

<u>Theater</u>		<u>Room</u>
9:00 AM	Script Writing	B214
9:15 AM	Improv – Characters & Scene work	S266
9:30 AM	Improv Games for 2 Players	S115
9:45 AM	Short Form Improv. Games	L150
10:00 AM	Improvising Real Life	W116
10:00 AM	Script Writing	B214
10:30 AM	Stage Combat	C211
10:45 AM	Improv – Characters & Scene work	S266
10:45 AM	Improv Games for 2 Players	S115
11:15 AM	Improvising Real Life	W116
11:15 AM	Short Form Improv. Games	L150
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12:15 PM	Improv Games for 2 Players	S115

12:45 PM	Short Form Improv. Games	L150
12:45 PM	Improvising Real Life	W116
1:15 PM	Stage Combat	C211

Music

		<u>Room</u>
9:00 AM	Instant Musical Theater	S105
9:00 AM	Why the Genre?	S138
9:30 AM	Teen Drum Workshop	Front Show mobile
9:30 AM	Jazz/Blues/Rock/Funk Ensemble	T201
10:00 AM	Spontaneous Composition Jam Session (continuous until 1:30)	Back Show mobile
10:00 AM	Songwriting 101	T203
10:00 AM	Why the Genre?	S138
10:30 AM	Teen Drum Workshop	Front Show mobile
10:30 AM	Jazz/Blues/Rock/Funk Ensemble	T201
11:00 AM	Instant Musical Theater	S105
11:00 AM	Songwriting 101	T203
11:00 AM	Why the Genre?	S138
11:30 AM	Jazz/Blues/Rock/Funk Ensemble	T201
12:00 PM	Teen Drum Workshop	Front Show mobile
12:00 PM	Songwriting 101	T203
1:00 PM	Instant Musical Theater	S105

Creative Writing

		<u>Room</u>
9:00 AM	Poetry and Illustration Wall (continuous until 1:00 PM)	L145
9:00 AM	Poets as Journalists	L146
9:30 AM	Basics of Storytelling and Comics	L141
10:00 AM	These Poems Aren't Going to Write Themselves	L147
10:15 AM	Poets as Journalists	L146
11:00 AM	Basics of Storytelling and Comics	L141
11:30 AM	These Poems Aren't Going to Write Themselves	L147
11:45 AM	Poets as Journalists	L146
12:30 PM	Basics of Storytelling and Comics	L141
12:45 PM	These Poems Aren't Going to Write Themselves	L147

Visual Arts

		<u>Room</u>
8:45 AM	Monoprint	W326
9:00 AM	Linoleum Print	Outside S Corridor Alcove or S111 (Rain)
9:15 AM	How to Draw a Caricature	L159
9:30 AM	Manga Basics	L143
9:30 AM	Sculpting Masks	B-Wing Overhang

9:45 AM	Portfolio Preparation	L160
9:45 AM	Easy Cartoon Animation	S140
10:00 AM	Painting with Watercolors	S110
10:15 AM	Monoprint	W326
10:45 AM	How to Draw a Caricature	L159
11:00 AM	Sculpting Masks	B-Wing Overhang
11:00 AM	Linoleum Print	Outside S Corridor Alcove or S111 (Rain)
11:00 AM	Easy Cartoon Animation	S140
11:00 AM	Portfolio Preparation	L160
11:15 AM	Manga Basics	L143
11:30 AM	Painting with Watercolors	S110
11:30 AM	Monoprint	W326
12:15 PM	How to Draw a Caricature	L159
12:30 PM	Sculpting Masks	B-Wing Overhang
12:30 PM	Portfolio Preparation	L160
12:30 PM	Easy Cartoon Animation	S140
12:45 PM	Manga Basics (Advanced)	L143
1:00 PM	Painting with Watercolors	S110
<u>Video</u>		<u>Room</u>
9:30 AM	Digital Rotoscoping	W317
10:00 AM	Television Studio Production	W126
10:45 AM	Digital Rotoscoping	W317
11:15 AM	Television Studio Production	W126
12:30 PM	Digital Rotoscoping	W317

Creative Writing Workshops

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POETS AS JOURNALISTS

Felicia Sherelle Capers

Session I: 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Session II: 10:15 AM – 11:05 AM

Session III: 11:45 AM – 12:35 PM

Room: L146

THESE POEMS AREN'T GOING TO WRITE THEMSELVES

CATHERINE DOTY

Session I: 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Session II: 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM

Session III: 12:45 PM - 1:35 PM

Room L147

When you tell a poet that they have creative freedom to sit down, be inspired, and just write, it's a poet's dream. In this workshop, we celebrate that creative freedom. Join us and allow your creative play on words to run wild. You will explore poetic forms like alliteration and repetition and be inspired by the great Nikki Giovanni as we "Ego Trip". What you begin in your writings in this workshop are the beginnings of creative poems, and the needed inspiration for other pieces of writing you've been exploring, like short stories and scripts. At the end of the workshop, we will share in a voluntary open mic forum, and receive information on how to have your work reviewed, critiqued, and perfected by a professional.

Felicia Sherelle is an author, poet, workshop leader, and writing and publishing consultant. She is founder of Felicia IN Print, providing services like editing, ghostwriting, and blogging. She is the Communications Officer for Arts Performing Communities, a not-for-profit dedicated to transforming neighborhoods through the arts. She is the Vice President of Word Seed, Inc., a literary arts organization dedicated to fusing all things community and all things WORDS, through youth programs, poetry workshops and features, and its annual production of the Paterson Poetry Festival.

Felicia is a performance poet, featuring high energy and diverse topic poetry through Passaic County Community College's TAPP Program. She utilizes her background in child advocacy for interactive youth poetry workshops, as well as school culture and climate workshops for students, and professional development for staff.

If a poem is to be the best it can be, revision is necessary – but lets not forget that other special joy of writing poetry – the unbridled wildness and energy of a first draft, which is what we will celebrate in this workshop.

Catherine Doty is a native of inner-city Paterson, New Jersey. Catherine is poet, educator and cartoonist. Her first poetry collection, *Momentum*, won a ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year award. Her second volume of poems, *Wonderama*, was awarded the 2022 Paterson Poetry Prize. Doty has received some really nice awards and fellowships, and her poems can be found in many books and journals. She has been visiting schools and writing with you people for many, many years because she loves to and because they make excellent poets.

Creative Writing Workshop

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BASICS OF STORYTELLING AND COMICS

Ray Negron

Session I: 9:30AM - 10:20AM

Session II: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Session III: 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

Room L141

This workshop will go over techniques and practices used in storytelling/comics. Whether you're a novice or want to expand your knowledge, this workshop will give you information that'll give you confidence to start drawing YOUR story.

Ray Negron Raymond Negron graduated from County College of Morris with an associate's in fine arts who then transitioned to The Kubert School of Cartooning and Graphic Art. There he received the Inkwell Award prior to completing the program in 2022. Afterwards, Raymond has gone on to instruct at the Kubert School teaching Saturday classes that help children from 10-18 further their art knowledge. With many showcases and comic conventions under his belt, Raymond aims to publish some personal work and anthology series with other Kubert Alumni. He currently resides in Morris County NJ.

Dance Workshop

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AFRICAN DRUMMING AND DANCE

Yahaya Kamate

Session I: 9:45 AM - 10:35 AM

Session II: 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM

Session III: 12:45 PM – 1:35 PM

Room S253

In this workshop students will investigate a celebratory dance belonging to people living in the Beyla region of West Africa. It is a communal, recreational dance, performed by people of all ages, to acknowledge community members' accomplishments such as fine fishing skills, making the catch of the day or to show a transformation from childhood to young adulthood. A dance movement vocabulary is featured that copies bird and animal movements. Students learn that the dance movements are generally connected to places, occasions, events, drums or foods. As students explore, learn and share new ways to dance, their teacher learns and performs the role of griot, the community storyteller. Students are invited to think about those that have gone before them and record their feelings and ideas in journals, while pondering the gifts that they bring to the community and their legacies.

Yahaya Kamate is the Associate Artistic Director of the Seventh Principle Performance Company and the Founder of Kamate Traders, "trading art for smiles." He has performed worldwide and soloed with companies including the National Ballet Cote D'Ivoire, Ballet D'Afrique, and Mask Dance Company. He has taught at Mark Morris Dance Center for NY and NJ Young Audiences, and elsewhere. He performed at Animal Kingdom and Epcot at Disney World and at Busch Gardens and has been with Seventh Principle as principal artist/choreographer since 1997. He is currently teaching at Alvin Ailey, The Center for Dance Education and at local public and private schools.

Dance Workshops

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HIP HOP FUNDAMENTALS

Spex

Session I: 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM

Session II: 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Session III: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Room: Cafeteria

POETRY THROUGH MOVEMENT

Ramya Shankaran

Session I: 9:15 AM – 10:05 AM

Session II: 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Session III: 12:15 PM – 1:05 PM

Room: S246

Hip Hop Fundamentals is designed to put the "fun" in fundamentals. If you ever wanted to learn the party dances in Hip Hop that influenced music videos and apply them to routines, then this class is for you. Students will learn the basic grooves and techniques of various dances in Hip-Hop and its influences. Spex breaks down basic steps in his warm-up and choreography. Students will also learn how to apply these steps in their freestyle, to aid with auditions or just for fun at parties.

Raymond "Spex" Abbiw is a gifted dancer, performer, and choreographer who has established himself as a creative force within the hip hop/street dance community. This NYC native has served as a vanguard for the preservation of the history and evolution of the art of hip-hop dance for over 20 years and has collaborated with several of hip hop's pioneers and innovators among dance, music, and theater. This graduate of NY's High School of Art and Design introduction to hip-hop at the height of its explosion in 1988, would ignite his enthusiasm and lifelong commitment to hip-hop dance and culture forging him onto an astonishing career that would lead him to collaborations with artists such as Mariah Carey, Lauryn Hill and Wyclef Jean just to name a few. Spex's ability would lead to tours throughout Japan and Europe as a featured dancer. In 2002, Spex would further his artistic abilities by making his acting debut in Off Broadway's highly acclaimed, hip-hop musical *Soular Power'd* as a featured dancer and actor. He has also appeared as a dancer in the Disney film 'Enchanted.'

Ramya Shankaran is an accomplished Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam artist, choreographer, and teacher, bringing over 30 years of expertise blending tradition with contemporary relevance. With a deep passion for classical dance, Ramya has trained under prestigious Gurus and holds a Master's degree in Bharatanatyam. Her artistry not only honors the grace and discipline of these ancient dance forms but also incorporates modern ideas, making them relevant in today's world.

Ramya is also an author, writing "Mapping of Spaces Through Bharatanatyam Sequences" (2019), which has received acclaim by renowned dance Smt. Meera Sreenarayan and reviewed positively by Blue Ink Review and Makkal Kural, Chennai.

Dance Workshop

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CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Madison Meredith

Session I: 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM

Session II: 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Session III: 12:15 PM – 1:05 PM

Room: B202

This contemporary class centers dynamic, grounded movement, inviting dancers to engage deeply with musicality, spatial awareness, and full-body connectivity. Class begins with a guided warm-up and builds through technical progressions that develop strength, coordination and clarity,

incorporating floorwork, phrase work, and improvisation.

Madison Meredith is a dance artist from New Jersey based in the greater NJ/NY area. She holds an Ed. M in Dance Education from Rutgers University and a BFA in Dance Performance from Mason Gross school of the Arts. Madison teaches with various dance organizations including Nimbus Dance Works and Mark Morris Dance Center. She is a company member with DoubleTake Dance, moe-tion dance theater, and JRamirez & Artists.

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Dance Workshop

K-POP

Mee Jung

Session I: 11:00 – 11:50 PM

Session II: 12:30 PM – 1:20 PM

Session III: 1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Room: C106 (Small Studio)

(Each session limited to 25 participants)

This workshop will be focused on K-Pop Dance, which is rarely seen here in the United States. Participants will learn the latest movement and better understand the dance style. K-Pop (Gayo in Korean) is a musical genre originating in South Korea that is characterized by a wide variety of audiovisual elements. Students will learn the fundamental movements of K-Pop dance as not many dance schools offer an authentic version. Advanced dancers need specialized lessons that challenge their current skill level.

Mee Jung is the founder, CEO, and Artistic Director of i KADA Contemporary Dance Company which is a 501-(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Ms. Jung founded i KADA in New York City in 2011 and the group had their inaugural performance at the New York City Center. Ms. Jung then started KoDaFe at the NYC International Festival, now a 4-day festival. In 2019, she was invited to be a judge at Korea's biggest event, Busan International Dance Festival. She's also been featured on BBC News for teaching K-Pop classes.

In 2022, Ms. Jung opened the first official location of i KADA Dance Center, an open place for anyone interested in the world of dance. They provide classes and exposure to various dance forms of all levels. Our goal is to build a home and stage for all dancers regardless of their backgrounds as well as educating the world on the fundamentals of dance.

Music Workshop

* * *

SONGWRITING 101

Sal Locascio

Session I: 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Session II: 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

Session III: 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

Room: T203

Participants will be introduced to the idea of song structure, breaking down and understanding its individual parts while learning about the harmonic and melodic components involved in the creation of a piece of music. The concepts of time signature, key, rhythm, melody, and chords will be discussed. Using these ideas, we will collaboratively write a song that the participants will be sent after the session.

Sal Locascio is a professional gigging musician, composer, song writer, audio engineer, voiceover artist, and college music professor. He holds an associate and bachelor's degree in music performance and a master's degree in music theory and composition. Sal has been playing guitar since the age of 11. He also plays several other instruments (flute, voice, percussion, and more), has put out several albums of original music (Mazzard effect and Foos), and currently gigs with several tribute bands (REAL, Captain).

Music Workshop

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WHY THE GENRE?

Miguel Perdomo

Session I: 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Session II: 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Session III: 11:00 PM - 11:50 PM

Room: S138

This workshop will explore the origins of different genres of music and learning how to categorize music based on instrumentation, lyrical content, performance and style.

Since the age of 15, *Miguel A Perdomo, Jr.* has written and performed his own music. From Hip-Hop to R&B to Dance and Christian Contemporary Music, Miguel has worked on a plethora of songs and projects with many artists. He currently has his own collective of artists and label known as *We Are Worth It*, collaborating with his partner who specializes in production and engineering. Together, they have released 3 singles and a 10 song album called *David Danced*, released in August 2021. Miguel's music is available on all streaming platforms.



Music Workshops

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TEEN DRUM WORKSHOP

Percussionist William Ruiz

Session I: 9:30 AM-10:20 AM

Session II: 10:30 AM-11:20 AM

Session III: 12:00 PM-12:50 PM

Show mobile - In Front of Tech Building

Join Percussionist William Ruiz for an exciting drum workshop that will immerse students in the foundational elements of drumming while exploring various cultural influences! Students will learn essential drum rudiments including single and double stroke rolls, triplets and paradiddles, and flams!

Explore cultural rhythms with basic calypso techniques and the indigenous influences of African and Taino traditions in the Caribbean. Additionally, we will cover basic soloing techniques to boost creativity and confidence!

William Ruiz is an award-winning Indigenous/Native American (Taino, Spanish, and Portuguese) New York City musician and teaching artist specializing in all forms of percussion & drumming. William integrates Native American, Caribbean, South American, Mexican, Asian, and African influences into his world-beat music. William plays many culturally traditional percussive instruments such as congas, bongos, djembes, dunduns, shekeres, rattles, and other hand instruments. He has performed throughout the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Egypt, Indonesia, France, Germany, Colombia, The Bahamas, Nepal, and India. He performs and teaches children and adults of all abilities and backgrounds for assemblies, workshops, residencies, and educational opportunities.

THE SPONTANEOUS COMPOSITION

JAM SESSION

Ray Ippolito

10:00 AM-1:30 PM Continuous

Show mobile - Behind the Tech Building

Year after year, this workshop draws over 1000 students to participate or just kick back and enjoy the sounds being created on stage under the direction of multi-talented Ray Ippolito. Drummers, horn, guitar and string players, rappers and singers alike share their talents and energy in this impromptu jam session.

Due to the overwhelming turnout of bands over the years, we encourage all of you who wish to show what you and/or your band are made of by opening this "jam session" to preexisting groups of all styles: Metal, R&B, Rock, Latin, Hip-Hop, etc. You will be given the opportunity to play no more than 2 songs (max time 10 minutes) and will be required to bring any additional amplifiers or equipment your band will need. There will be a band sign up at the stage the day of the festival and it will be on a **limited first-come, first-serve basis, so be sure to sign up early.**

Ray Ippolito is a multi-instrumentalist who has had his hands full as a performer, composer, arranger, producer, musical director, industry clinician and educator for the past 16 years. A Musicians Institute honors graduate and Berklee College of Music alumnus, Ray has performed all over the world as well as at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space and Lincoln Center.

Music Workshops

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JAZZ/BLUES/ROCK/FUNK ENSEMBLE

Matt Chertkoff

Session I: 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM

Session II: 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM

Session III: 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Room: T201

This workshop is for musicians who play any instrument and want to learn how to get better at playing music with other people. We will workshop basic music theory, style, rhythm, the “blues”, chords, scales, and much more. We will learn how to take solos, learn songs by ear, and jam with other musicians! Come learn how to play using your own inner voice!

Matt Chertkoff, is an accomplished jazz-guitarist, having performed around the world and recorded or shared the stage with jazz legends such as Houston Person, Jimmy Cobb, David Fathead Newman, Freddy Cole, Dee Dee Bridgewater, among others. He has appeared on national and international TV and regularly performs at popular NYC jazz venues. Matt is a Bergen County resident and this is his first year at Teen Arts!

INSTANT MUSICAL THEATRE

Dan Keyser

Session I: 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM (HS)

Session II: 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM (MS)

Session III: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM (All)

Room: S105

Engage with the elements of creating musical theatre, all packed into one course! In just 50 minutes, we will generate a story premise, design the framework for semi-improvised scenes, compose lyrics for a show-stopping song, and conclude with a triumphant performance of our creation! This fun, energetic, collaborative experience will challenge you to stretch the range of your abilities!

Dan Keyser is an award-winning actor who has performed a wide variety of roles in theaters across New Jersey. Beyond the stage, his experience includes acting in short films, performing improv comedy, portraying characters in scripted podcasts, and narrating audiobooks. Dan has also served on the production staff of many youth productions and taught drama within the English classroom for over a decade. He is very excited to return to the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival!



Theater Workshops

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IMPROVISING REAL LIFE

Staci Block

Session I: 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Session II: 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM

Session III: 12:45PM – 1:35PM

Room: W116

Do you like to make things up as you go along? Are you spontaneous with a knack for “thinking quickly on your feet?” *Reflections*, a program that does workshops on a variety of teen issues, will lead you through an interactive experience as you learn several improvisational games and techniques used to explore adolescent issues. Join us as we have fun “creating” in an atmosphere of trust and support. Do you have what it takes? Sure you do!

Staci Block MSW, LCSW, is Coordinator of the Reflections Teen Theater Program and the Summer RISE program (Reflections InterACTIVE Summer Experience). Both of these programs run out of the Bergen County Division of Family Guidance. Comprised of volunteer teens, *Reflections* performs for a variety of audiences on all types of adolescent issues. Staci is also an adjunct professor in the Sociology Department at William Paterson University. She specialized in applied improvisation, group work, psychodrama, playback theater, and other action methods. Staci has also performed as an actress and singer in a variety of venues throughout the metropolitan area.

IMPROV GAMES FOR GROUPS

Dreena Moran – Howdy Stranger

Session I: 9:45 AM – 10:35 AM

Session II: 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM

Session III: 12:45 PM – 1:35 PM

Room L150

Think fast! Unleash your inner comedian with short-form improv games. Discover the joy of spontaneous performance in a supportive and energetic environment where quick-thinking, creativity, and teamwork take center stage.

Dreena Moran is an improviser, voice actor, and singer/songwriter. As a member of the professional improv troupe, Howdy Stranger, Dreena performs improvised shows, writes and produces sketch comedy, and teaches improv classes. She studied comedy at The Upright Citizens Brigade Theater and The People’s Improv Theater. She performed as a house team member on The PIT stages in NYC.

SCRIPT WRITING

David Luke

Session I: 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Session II: 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Session III: 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

Room: B216

Through a combination of lecture and hands-on activities, students will learn the basic principles of scriptwriting. We will cover screenplays and plays, plus scriptwriting for podcasts and radio!

David Luke is the current Chairman of the Board of Governors and Past President of Bergen County Players. He has produced, run sound and lights, and worked as stage crew for numerous productions, including *Barbecue*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *From Screen to Stage*, *Getting Away With Murder*, and *Clybourne Park*. His acting credits include *The Emperor’s New Clothes*, *The Mouse That Roared*, *Aladdin*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Theater Workshops

* * *

STAGE COMBAT WORKSHOP

Jonathan Beckas & Monica Garza

Session I: 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Session II: 12:15 PM - 1:05 PM

Session III: 1:15 PM - 2:05 PM

Room: C211

(Each session limited to 30 participants)

Creating the illusion of violence is a rare instance in which the actor's ability to draw on truthful experience must remain separate from the external mechanics of the performance. The scene must be safe--or your show closes after the first performance! Learn to create the safe illusion of violence in this introductory session: How to perform slaps and punches -- chokes and falls -- and live to tell the tale! We'll learn the techniques and concepts that are the building blocks for all kinds of theatrical combat, moving toward performing a rehearsed fight with a partner.

Jonathan Beckas aka "JC" is an actor/stuntman born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA where he started his acting and stage combat career at the age of 15 in Pittsburgh Musical Theater. He landed his first professional role as Samuel in "A Pirates Tale" while also taking on the role of assistant fight director. In 2018 he moved to New Jersey to become a knight at Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, where he performed for 7 years. In 2022, JC set out to train in more stunts such as high falls, fire burns, and wire work at the International Stunt School of America. He has also been involved in multiple Society of American Fight Directors workshops throughout the years, learning various weapon forms such as rapier, dagger, sword & shield, quarterstaff and more. In the summer of 2025, he stepped into the role of a pirate once more at Lake Compounce's premier show "Splashbucklers" produced by Mirage Entertainment.

IMPROV GAMES FOR 2 PLAYERS

Ryan Huban – Howdy Stranger

Session I: 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM

Session II: 10:45 AM – 11:35 AM

Session III: 12:15 PM – 1:05 PM

Room: S115

Improv is like a team sport, where each actor is an active player on the field. Get ready to stretch your muscles (and your funny bones) in this action-packed workshop. Learn new improv techniques in the form of theater games. Level-up your communication skills by being a fierce listener and support your fellow improvisers like never before with the power of "Yes, and!" These fun, interactive group games will get you moving, thinking quickly, taking risks, and of course, laughing!

Ryan Huban founded the professional improv troupe, Howdy Stranger, through which he performs in improvised shows, writes and produces sketch comedy, and teaches improv classes. The team has won several improv competitions, including the 'NYC Tournament of Improvisers'. Ryan serves as an adjudicator for the Improv Pairs category at several NJ state theater competitions. Ryan studied at The Upright Citizens Brigade Theater, The Magnet Theater and Armando Diaz Studios. He appeared on stage as a stand-up comic and improved in *Out of Order* at Dover Little Theater, *Flea Flurkus* and *Unwritten History* at The Magnet, and *Fury* at the PIT.

Theater Workshop

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IMPROV – CHARACTERS & SCENE WORK

Chris Fitzpatrick – Howdy Stranger

Session I: 9:15 AM – 10:05 AM

Session II: 10:45 AM - 11:35 PM

Session III: 12:15 PM - 1:05 PM

Room: S266

Discover a scene as it unfolds! Carve out characters and explore the world and relationships around them. This workshop will offer simple tips and tricks for more successful scene work and fun character creation!

Chris Fitzpatrick is a stand-up comedian, improviser, and a member of Howdy Stranger through which he performs, teaches classes and workshops, and serves as writer and director for sketch comedy shows. He studied comedy at The Upright Citizen Brigade Theater and The Magnet Theater. Chris currently performs stand-up all over New York City, produces a monthly stand-up show in Brooklyn, and performs in various improv shows.

Visual Art Workshop

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MANGA BASICS JAPANESE COMIC ART

Teresa DeFabrizio

Session I: 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM (Basic)

Session II: 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM (Basic)

Session III: 12:45 PM - 1:35 PM (Advanced)

Room: L143

“Manga” or Japanese comics have become extremely popular with readers of all ages. However, knowing how to “copy” a style isn’t enough. Create your own characters and learn the basics of anatomy and expression that fuel this dynamic art form! This workshop aids students in creating dynamic anatomy, body language and striking features.

Teresa DeFabrizio is an artist, teacher, and instructor who's fortunate to teach, create, paste, cut and make art! She holds dual degrees in Theatre and Fine Arts from Montclair State University, is a certified New Jersey Art teacher and holds her MFA in Illustration from William Paterson University. She has been an Arts Professor with Bergen and Passaic Community Colleges, worked as an arts and theatre facilitator at the WAE Center in Orange, NJ, and currently is teaching students of different abilities at Marble Jam Kids in River Edge, NJ

Visual Arts Workshops

* * *

FUN PAINTING WITH WATERCOLOR

Mary Guidetti-McColl

Session I: 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Session II: 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM

Session III: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

Room: S110

(Each session is limited to 20 participants)

Watercolor is a unique and challenging medium. Unlike other mediums, there are many different techniques and approaches. Watercolor artists are always trying to invent a new way to control the water and paint to create their personal vision. In this workshop we will be using a technique, similar to Chinese watercolor, but not limited to any traditional rules. You will learn how to separate the colors of paint on your brush to produce a rainbow effect, at the same time using your brush directly to paint shapes to make flowers, bugs, birds, and leaves!

Mary Guidetti-McColl loves to interpret the effects of sunlight in landscape and through intimate nature studies. She is also a portrait painter, illustrator, and art teacher. Ms. Guidetti has devoted her life to the fine arts as creator, art advocate, and educator.

Graduating from Moore College of Art in Philadelphia with a Fine Arts and Science degree in Education, along with her MFA in Sculpture, Ms. Guidetti has used her skills to become a teacher as well as an illustrator for Simon and Schuster Publishing and a colorist for Marvel Comics.

Ms. Guidetti has received numerous awards, and her work has been seen in galleries throughout the East Coast. She took awards for her work in pastel in the pastel societies of Florida and Cape Cod provided an opportunity for her to be included in an article in the Pastel Journal, and Artists' Magazine.

Visual Arts Workshops

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HOW TO DRAW A CARICATURE

Dave McCoy

Session I: 9:15 AM – 10:05 AM

Session II: 10:45 AM – 11:35 AM

Session III: 12:15 PM – 1:05 PM

Room L159

Learn the art of drawing caricatures, or cartoon versions of yourself, your friends, family, or anyone you want! Students will be shown examples of caricatures. They will then learn the basic skills of drawing facial features, and then will create several black and white caricatures of each other.

Dave McCoy has been drawing since childhood and has worked as a professional cartoonist and illustrator for 30 years. He has taught classes for five years at the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon Art in Dover as well as Drawing and Design classes for seven years at Gibbs College and recently has taught Adult Cartooning classes at Bergen Community College. Mr. McCoy has a BA in art and freelances as a caricature artist and a children's book illustrator.

(www.Davetoons.com)

Visual Arts Workshops

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EASY CARTOON ANIMATION

Luis Medrano

Session I: 9:45 AM – 10:35 AM

Session II: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Session III: 12:30 PM – 1:20 PM

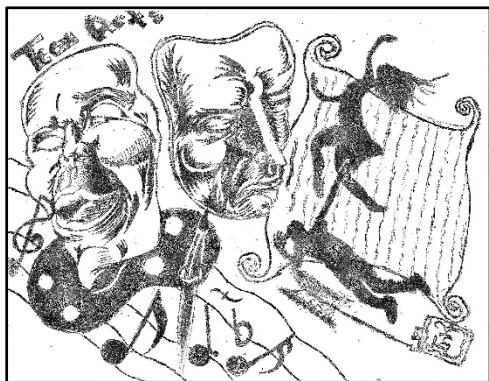
Room: S140

All you need is a mobile device, a free app, and your own imagination. Be ready to have fun! Come and learn the art of cartoon animation, plain and simple! Bring your own tablet or smartphone (Android or Apple). We will be using a free app called Flipaclip. A stylus pen is encouraged but not necessary.

Born in Madrid and raised in Panama City, Panama, *Luis Medrano* made his first animated cartoon when he was 6 years old and has been a professional animator for over 25 years. He has won three Emmy and three Promax awards for his work in animation and broadcast design in New York City for the NY Mets, NY Jets, MLB, NHL and CBS, and is currently working on animations for the virtual experiences of the new Sea World Abu Dhabi.

He regularly teaches hand-drawn animation workshops to kids and teens through public libraries in New Jersey and through virtual workshops in Latin America.

You must download the Flipaclip app on your phone before arriving to the festival as wifi is spotty.



PREPARING YOUR PORTFOLIO FOR PRESENTATION

Ken Goldstein

Session I: 9:45 AM – 10:35 AM

Session II: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Session III: 12:30 PM – 1:20 PM

Room: L160

This workshop will include a presentation and discussion on how to develop a professional portfolio and incorporate storytelling.

Ken Goldstein is an educator, and arts leader who believes deeply in the power of creativity to connect people, build community and open opportunities for students. As Dean of the School of Contemporary Arts at Ramapo College of New Jersey, he works across academic programs, public arts initiatives, and community partnerships to create spaces where artists, students and audiences can learn from one another in meaningful ways. His leadership has focused on growing programs in film, theater, music, design, and media while keeping experiential learning and public engagement at the center of the work. Alongside his work in high education, Ken continues to work professionally in theater and entertainment design, bringing contemporary industry experience directly into the classroom and creative process. He is a strong advocate for the arts and humanities as essential parts of an engaged, thoughtful and connected society.

Visual Art Workshop

MONOTYPE

Russ Spitkovsky

Guttenberg Arts

Session I: 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Session II: 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM

Session III: 12:30 PM – 1:20 PM

Room: W326

Monotype is a spontaneous printmaking technique that lets artists create one-of-a-kind prints using an etching press, brayers, ink, paint brushes and textures. Students can create a print and learn about printing presses, viscosity, color and composition.

Russ Spitkovsky's artwork and illustrations have been included in numerous national and international publications and exhibitions. He is one of the founders of Carrier Pigeon: Illustrated Fiction and Fine Art and Paper Crown Press. In 2014, Russ helped create Guttenberg Arts, a multidisciplinary art residency program and took over as executive director in 2023. Russ has a MFA from the school of Visual Arts (NYC) and currently teaches printmaking at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey and Guttenberg Arts.

Visual Art Workshop

LINOLEUM PRINTS!

Nati Hoyos

Guttenberg Arts

Session I: 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Session II: 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM

Session III: 12:30 PM – 1:20 PM

Room: B-Wing Alcove

RAIN SITE: S111

Participants will learn how to ink up pre-cut designs and create prints they can take home, as well as textile prints, they can sew onto their clothes after the workshop.

Nati Hoyos is a visual artist and poet. She has exhibited her work in the tristate area and is currently showing at the Guttenberg Arts Gallery. Nati has recently finished an artist residency at GA and is an instructor for any technique workshops throughout the State of New Jersey.

Visual Art Workshop

SCUPLTING MASKS

Peter Lagomarsino

Session I: 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM

Session II: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Session III: 12:30 PM – 1:20PM

Room: B-Wing Overhang

25 Student Limit!

This mask making workshop with ceramic artist Peter Lagomarsino will allow students the opportunity to learn clay techniques along with artist expression in the exciting area of mask making. Students will be introduced to making masks using clay as the medium with inspiration drawn from African and Picasso style masks. Each student will receive individual slabs of clay along with basic pottery tools (rolling pin, needle tool and texture stamps) to create their own version of a dynamic mask. The instructor will be hands on with technical and creative insights into working with clay and assisting each student in bringing their visions to life. We will incorporate many elements of sculpture including line, shape, form, texture, space, pattern, balance, and proportion. Discussion and feedback will be incorporated throughout the in depth and educational workshop. If desired, masks can be painted at home with tempers or acrylic paint once the clay dries.

Peter Lagomarsino is a local ceramic artist working and teaching ceramics for the past 35

years. He has taught hundreds of workshops in many clay techniques including wheel throwing, hand building, and sculpting. He teaches at Wortendyke Studio and has conducted classes at various venues throughout Bergen County.

Peter's sculptures have been recognized and awarded in juried shows, and he continues to show and sell at local art shows.

Video Workshop

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DIGITAL ROTOCOPING IN 2D ANIMATION

Juan Leon

Session I: 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM

Session II: 10:45 AM – 11:35 AM

Session III: 12:30 PM – 1:20 PM

Room: W317

(Each session limited to 30 students)

Students will be creating digital potato heads by combining features of 4 different individuals to create a brand-new unique face. Students will learn how to use basic tools, such as layers, brushes, and

masks, inside of Adobe Photoshop to assemble their digital creations.

Juan Leon was born in Puebla, Mexico, but is a real "Jersey" guy as he was raised in the Garden State! He received his high school diploma from Passaic High School and obtained his associate's degree in Animation from Bergen Community College. He then received his BA from F.I.T. in NYC focusing on motion graphics and interactive multimedia.

Throughout his freelancing years in the field, he was able to keep a close connection to BCC as a professional tutor and later as an adjunct professor. Currently he serves as the Visual Art Lab Supervisor at BCC. He maintains the upkeep of all the software and hardware that are used in labs so that the professors and students can continue to have a conducive environment that will help nurture their artistic creativity.

TELEVISION STUDIO PRODUCTION

Mary Ann Kho

Session I: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Session II: 11:15 AM – 12:15 AM

Room: W126

Ever wonder how a real live television news broadcast is produced? Workshop attendees will have an opportunity to tour Bergen Community College's newest television production studio and learn from industry professionals what goes on behind the camera as well as in front. Students will receive hands-on experience in the studio and control room. Some will also be able to appear on set to anchor their own newscast of "Teen Arts Update". Any student can have fun whether your interests are in podcasting, social media marketing, broadcast news, or just curiosity.

Mary Ann Kho is a graduate of Bergen Community College's Broadcasting program and Rutgers University's Journalism and Media Studies program. Mary Ann has done freelance work for MSG and CBS Studios for sports and television events. She has been a videographer for various news networks and private companies. She has worked as a producer, director, and editor for various productions including one of BCC's longest running shows, Bergen Stages TV, which is currently in its 15th year of production. Her specialty is educational broadcasting, and she has nearly 20 years of experience.

Performance & Critique Schedules – Creative Writing 2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Creative Writing - 1

Room: B208

9:00 AM	Glen Rock HS
9:30	Pascack Hill HS
10:00	Emerson Jr/Sr HS
11:00	A.S Faust Middle School
11:30	Waldwick

Kenya Bullock is an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and cultural worker whose practice spans textile installation, community organizing, and arts program leadership. Through The Ken Cloth, they create immersive textile environments that act as living archives of memory and collective experience. Bullock also leads statewide arts education initiatives, including New Jersey Poetry Out Loud and mindALIGNED, and founded Tha Block Trenton, Inc., a community-rooted platform for cultural memory and creative gathering. Their work centers care, collaboration, and the cultural expression of the African diaspora.

Creative Writing – 2

Room: B209

9:00 AM	Cliffside Park HS
9:30	Dumont HS
10:30	Northern Highlands Regional HS
11:00	Applied Technology HS
12:00	Ridgewood HS

Susan Rothbard taught English and creative writing in Livingston, NJ for 25 years before retiring in 2019. Her first book of poetry, *Birds of New Jersey*, won the 2020 Dogfish Head Poetry Prize and was published by Broadkill River Press. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and has been featured in Ted Kooser's "American Life in Poetry" and on Verse Daily. She is the recipient of a 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship Finalist award from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Creative Writing – 3

Room: B203

9:00 AM	Dwight Morrow HS
10:00	Wood-Ridge Jr./Sr. HS
11:30	New Milford HS
12:30	Eisenhower Middle School - Wyckoff

Scott Pleasants is the first Poet Laureate in the 130-year history of Teaneck, New Jersey. A Bronx native, Air Force veteran, and longtime transportation executive, he brings a distinctive voice shaped by lived experience and community advocacy. A published author, Pushcart Prize nominee, Reflections on Nature Literary Contest Award winner, 2026 StorySlam winner, and produced playwright, Pleasants crafts poetry that reflects shared journeys and collective memory. His work offers thoughtful, resonant interpretations of everyday experience

Performance & Critique Schedules – Dance

2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Large Group Dance

Room: **Anna Ciccone Theater**

8:40 AM	Dwight Morrow HS
8:50	Cliffside Park HS
9:00	Benjamin Franklin MS
9:10	Lodi HS
9:20	Bergenfield HS
9:30	BASCHS
9:40	Palisades Park HS

Critique (LG and SG Dance) – **Andrea Kron** is a graduate of the Ailey School, NYC. She is a dancer, choreographer, and coach. Her performing credits include "Hercules" on Broadway, regional theatre, Nutcrackers, movie and print experience. She has been a guest teacher in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut teaching ballet, Horton, theatre dance and anatomy at performing arts high schools, universities, and festivals. Ms. Kron has participated in the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival as a dance critiquer since 2005.

Small Group Dance

Room: **C106 (Dance Studio)**

9:10 AM	Cliffside Park HS
9:20	Bergenfield HS
9:30	Dwight Morrow HS
9:40	North Arlington HS
9:50	Lodi HS
10:00	A. S. Faust Middle School
10:10	Barnstable Academy

Critique (LG and SG Dance) – **Susan Nabors Braisted** is a dancer, teacher, and choreographer with an extensive background in Baroque Dance, Jazz, Tap, and Musical Theater. Susan has been teaching and conducting Baroque and 18th century Country Dance workshops since 2005. She taught Baroque Dance at Art of Motion in Ridgewood, NJ for over ten years and continues to coach dancers in Baroque technique. She has danced in over a dozen Baroque operas for the Amherst Early Music Festival, performed with New York Historical Dance at the MET and for "The Royals Baptism and Ballet" in Philadelphia. She's created dance sequences for the 1996 PBS series "Liberty, the American Revolution". For the past ten years, she has been a volunteer choreographer for Ridgewood High School's "Jamboree" annual scholarship fundraiser.

Performance & Critique Schedules – Video and Instrumental Music 2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Video Production

Room:	W221
9:00 AM	Glen Rock HS
9:20	Applied Tech HS
9:40	Bergenfield HS
10:20	Dumont HS
10:40	Northern Highlands Regional HS
11:00	Palisades Park HS
12:00	Waldwick HS

Instrumental Music - Strings

Room: S134

Large Group:

9:20 AM	Nor. Valley Reg. HS, Old Tappan
9:40	Nor. Valley Reg. HS, Demarest
10:00	Fair Lawn HS/Memorial MS
10:20	Benjamin Franklin MS
10:40	Thomas Jefferson MS - Teaneck
11:00	Thomas Jefferson MS – Fair Lawn

Small Group:

11:30 AM	Eisenhower MS - Wyckoff
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Critique (W221) – **Joseph Charles** is a creative and innovative educational leader with extensive experience in media arts, film production, educational technology, and career and technical education. With a background as a Digital Media CTE instructor, and Supervisor of Performing Arts, he has developed and led dynamic programs that blend storytelling, digital media, and hands-on learning experiences. Passionate about visual arts, filmmaking, and student creativity, he’s dedicated to helping students build technical skills, express their ideas through all forms of media.

Critique (LG and SG Strings) - **Sandra Dackow** holds three degrees from the Eastman School of Music and currently serves as Music Director of the Hershey Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania, the Hershey Symphony Festival Strings, and the William Paterson University Symphony Orchestra in New Jersey. Dr. Dackow has published over 120 works for student orchestras and is an author of several methods, technique and reference books. She has appeared as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator throughout the US, Europe, Australia and Asia. Dr. Dackow is a former President of the Conductor’ Guild, a Lowell Mason Fellow with NAFME, and has won or placed in conducting competitions held in Switzerland and Ukraine.

Performance & Critique Schedules – Instrumental Music

2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Large Group Instrumental Music

Room:	Gymnasium
9:00	Becton Regional HS
9:20	Cliffside Park HS
9:40	AS Faust MS, East Rutherford
10:00	Waldwick HS
10:20	Fair Lawn Memorial MS
10:40	Midland School #1 – Rochelle Pk
11:00	Union School - Rutherford
11:20	Benjamin Franklin MS - Teaneck
11:40	TJMS – Teaneck 7th Grade
12:00 PM	TJMS – Teaneck 8 th Grade
12:20	North Arlington HS
12:40	Memorial MS – Fair Lawn
1:00	Palisades Park HS

Critique (Concert Bands) – **Teddi Sotiropoulos** is currently an Adjunct Professor in the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, where she conducts the Campus Band/Community Band. She also teaches Elementary Instrumental Conducting and is the Assistant Marching Band Director at Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan. Prior to this, she was the Director of Bands at Northern Highlands Regional School in Allendale. Teddi holds a B.M. in Music Education from the University of Illinois and an M.M. in Wind Music Conducting from the University of South Florida.

Large Group Instrumental Music – Jazz

Room:	Student Center
9:00 AM	Glen Rock HS
9:20	Emerson HS
9:40	River Dell HS
10:00	Thomas Jefferson MS - Teaneck
10:30	Thomas Jefferson MS – Fair Lawn
11:00	Pascack Valley HS
11:20	Ridgefield Park HS
11:40	Fair Lawn HS
12:00 PM	Eisenhower MS - Wyckoff
12:20	Dumont HS
1:40	Lodi HS

Critique (Jazz) – **Nathan Eklund** was born near Seattle, WA and began his musical journey studying piano at age six. Inspired by his grandfather’s big band and military trumpet playing in the 1940s, Nathan picked up the trumpet at eleven and became interested in Jazz through the trumpet voices of Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Clifford Brown. After studying at Central Washington University then at William Paterson University, he became active in the NYC Big Band scene and performed with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Mingus Big Band, Roy Hargrove Big Band and many more. He has released five albums as a leader and has recorded Spyro Gyra’s 2006 Grammy nominated album *Wrapped Up in a Dream*. He has also performed as a sub on Broadway’s *Anything Goes*, *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, and *Leap of Faith*.

Performance & Critique Schedules – Vocal Music

2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Large Group Vocal Music—more than 35

Room: T128

9:20 AM	Eisenhower MS - Wyckoff
9:40	Glen Rock HS
10:00	Dwight Morrow HS
10:40	River Dell HS
11:20	Thomas Jefferson MS - Teaneck
12:00 PM	Union School - Rutherford
12:30	Palisades Park HS
1:00	Northern Valley HS – Old Tappan
1:20	Northern Valley HS - Demarest
1:40	Pascack Valley HS

Large Group Vocal Music -10 to 35 students

Room: W226

9:00 AM	Benjamin Franklin MS - Teaneck
9:20	Bergenfield HS
9:40	Pascack Hills HS
10:00	Bergen Tech - Teterboro
10:20	Cliffside Park HS
10:40	Emerson Jr./Sr. HS
11:00	Englewood on Palisades Charter
11:20	Becton Regional HS
11:40	Memorial MS – Fair Lawn
12:00 PM	Thomas Jefferson MS – Fair Lawn
12:20	Lodi HS
12:40	Midland Park HS
1:00	North Arlington HS
1:20	Fair Lawn HS
1:40	Wyckoff

Critique (T128) – **Tom Voorhis** has been a vocal music teacher for over 40 years. He has conducted over 20 Honors Choirs including the New Jersey All State Chorus. Mr. Voorhis has conducted choirs throughout Europe and the United State. He composes, gives workshops and was the choral director at Ridgefield Memorial High School for 37 years.

Critique (W226) – **Hillary Colton** retired after 32 years as Director of Choral Activities at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, where she led six award-winning choirs. A Master Music Teacher of the Year and Governor’s Award recipient, she has conducted ensembles including the NJ All State Women’s Choir, the inaugural Central Jersey Region II Women’s Honors Choir, and the CJMEA Intermediate Treble Choir. For 20 years, she served as Head Director of the American Music Abroad Voices Tour Honors Choir, performing across Europe. A past CJMEA president and longtime clinician for NJMEA, NJEA, and ACDA, her choirs consistently earned superior ratings, with more than 1,000 students selected for honors ensembles during her tenure.

Lauren D’Imperio - is a Professor of Applied Voice and Chorus Director at Bergen Community College and a Vocal Technique Instructor at Passaic County Technical Institute. She holds degrees in Music Education from William Paterson University and Vocal Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College. An active lyric soprano, she has performed throughout the tri-state area, across Europe, and at venues including Carnegie Hall, NJPAC, and the Theatre at MSG. Known for her expressive, versatile crossover style, her repertoire spans from Bach to Broadway.

Performance & Critique Schedules – Instrumental and Vocal Music

2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Small Group Vocal Music

Room:	C210
9:00 AM	Pascack Valley HS
9:20	Barnstable Academy
9:40	Bergenfield HS
10:00	Emerson Jr/Sr HS
10:40	Fair Lawn HS
11:00	Leonia HS
11:20	Bergen Arts & Science Charter HS
11:40	River Dell HS
12:20 PM	Ridgefield Park HS
12:40	Cliffside Park HS
1:00	A.S. Faust MS
1:00	Cliffside Park HS
1:30	Eisenhower MS - Wyckoff
1:50	North Arlington HS

Small Group Instrumental Music

Room:	W219
9:00 AM	North Arlington HS
9:20	Dwight Morrow HS
9:50	Memorial MS – Fair Lawn
10:40	Bergen Arts & Science Charter HS
12:00 PM	River Dell
12:30	Pascack Valley HS

Small Group Instrumental Music – Piano

Room:	W220
9:00 AM	Dwight Morrow HS
9:20	Pascack Valley HS
9:50	Ridgefield Park HS
10:00	Eisenhower MS - Wyckoff
10:20	North Arlington HS

Dr. Edward Schmiedecke earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in choral conducting and music education from Florida State University and the University of South Florida, and his doctorate in vocal performance from the University of Miami. As a judge, adjudicator, and clinician for Performing Arts Consultants, he works with choirs nationwide and has been invited by ACDA and MENC to present clinics and conduct festival choirs in Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, and Wisconsin.

Richard Chiandusse is an adjunct professor of music education at William Paterson University and teaches music theory, music history, and applied trumpet at Bergen Community College. He previously spent 34 years as band director at Dumont High School, directing the Concert and Marching Bands, Jazz Band, and multiple instrumental ensembles before retiring in 2012.

Dr. Carl Patrick Bolleia has performed as a pianist and historical keyboardist across Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and North America, collaborating with musicians of The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and Juilliard415, with recordings on Composers Concordance Records (Naxos) and MSR Classics. A champion of contemporary music who has premiered hundreds of works by leading composers, he is Assistant Professor of Music, Director of New Music, and Coordinator of Piano and Keyboard Studies at William Paterson University.

Performance & Critique Schedules - Theater

2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival

Large Group Theater

Room: Anna Ciccone Theater

10:00 AM	Ridgewood HS
10:40	Lodi HS
11:00	Benjamin Franklin MS - Teaneck
11:20	Ridgefield Park HS
12:00 PM	Cliffside Park HS
12:20	Thomas Jefferson MS - Teaneck
12:40	Waldwick HS
1:00	Eisenhower MS – Wyckoff
1:20	Bergenfield HS
1:40	Emerson Jr/Sr HS
2:00	Northern Valley HS - Demarest

Bill Kaufman has directed more than one hundred plays and musicals with actors ranging from 5 to 75 years old. His work has been seen at professional and local theaters, schools, community centers, television, and films. He is thrilled to be back at the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival to share the day with so many talented Middle and High School students!

Small Group Theater

Room: A104

9:00 AM	Glen Rock HS
9:20	Applied Tech HS
9:40	Bergen Arts & Science Charter
10:00	Ridgewood HS
10:20	Thomas Jefferson MS - Teaneck
10:40	A.S Faust MS
11:00	Cliffside Park HS
11:20	Lodi HS
11:40	Northern Valley HS – Old Tappan
12:00 PM	Northern Valley HS - Demarest
12:20	Benjamin Franklin MS - Teaneck
12:40	Ridgefield Park HS
1:40	Palisades Park HS

Jane Keitel is a professional Actor, Teaching Artist and Musician. An Actor's Equity member, she has performed Off-Broadway and in many NJ theatres. She has directed over 25 youth productions in the NY/NJ area. Ms. Keitel teaches Acting, Music, Musical Theatre, Improvisation and Playwriting at BergenPAC, Writer's Theatre of NJ, Luna Stage MPAC in Morristown, NJPAC, and previously for Papermill Playhouse. A graduate of both Montclair State University and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Jane is a founding member of Theatre Kids Studio for young performers.

Visual Arts Exhibit
2026 Bergen County Teen Arts Festival
Room: Gallery Bergen (W329)

Participating Schools – High Schools

Applied Technology High School
Barnstable Academy
Becton Regional High School
Bergen Arts and Sciences Charter School
Bergen County Technical HS, Teterboro
Bergenfield High School
Cliffside Park High School
Dumont High School
Dwight Morrow High School, Englewood
Emerson Jr/Sr High School
Glen Rock High School
Hasbrouck Heights High School
Indian Hills High Schools
Leonia High School
Midland Park High School
New Milford High School
North Arlington High School
Northern Highlands Regional High School
Park Ridge High School
Pascack Hills High School
Ramapo High School
Ridgefield Park Jr./Sr. High School
Ridgewood High School
River Dell High School
Waldwick High School
Wood-Ridge Jr./Sr. High School

Participating Schools – Middle Schools

A.S. Faust Middle School - E. Rutherford
Benjamin Franklin Middle School, Teaneck
Eisenhower Middle School, Wyckoff
Tenafly Middle School
Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Fair Lawn
Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Teaneck

Visual Art Adjudicators

Diana Matos
Cathy Del Colliano
Niel DeMarino
Andrea McKenna
Matthew Gosser
Andrea Mistretta
Karen Waller
Kim Schmitt
Jennifer Horler
Russ Spitkovsky
Steven Sitrin
Andrea Schettino
Simon Rigg
Paula Schiller
Karen Pikelney
Barbara Bell
Shawn Vales
Jose Morales

2026 Teen Arts Participating Schools and Liaisons

1. A.S. Faust Middle School, East Rutherford.....Katherine Machere
2. Applied Technology High School.....Juliette Castro
3. Barnstable Academy.....Darlene Boniface
4. Becton Regional High School.....Edward Donovan
5. Benjamin Franklin Middle School, Teaneck.....Jessica Bergen
6. Bergen Arts and Science Charter High School.....Michael Summante
7. Bergen County Technical High School, Teterboro.....Mateusz Rojek
8. Bergenfield High School.....Mora Boeri
9. Cliffside Park High School.....Charles Danho
10. Dumont High School.....Carolyn Wagner
11. Dwight Morrow High School, Englewood.....Mauricio Rodriguez
12. Eisenhower Middle School, Wyckoff.....Catherine Savery
13. Emerson Jr./Sr. High School.....William Ullman
14. Englewood on the Palisades Charter School.....Michael Phillips
15. Fair Lawn High SchoolJuliana Duenas Lopez
16. Glen Rock High School.....Mara Siegel
17. Hasbrouck Heights High School.....Paola Calderon
18. Indian Hills High School.....Lisa Higbie
19. Leonia High School.....Timothy Cullen
20. Lodi High School.....Sam Porter
21. Memorial Middle School, Fair Lawn.....George Glock
22. Midland Park High School.....Julie Dorlan
23. Midland School, Rochelle Park.....Justin Kemp
24. New Milford High School.....Lauren Finizia
25. North Arlington High School.....Cynthia Branco
26. Northern Highlands Regional High School.....Krista Carpino
27. Northern Valley Regional High School, Demarest.....Jonathan Harris
28. Northern Valley Regional High School, Old Tappan.....Jonathan Harris
29. Palisades Park High School.....Rachel Morgese
30. Park Ridge High School.....John Diomende
31. Pascack Hills High School.....Danielle Garretson
32. Pascack Valley High School.....Annette Molino
33. Ramapo High School.....Lisa Higbie
34. Ridgefield Park Jr./Sr. HS.....Alina Duran
35. Ridgewood High School.....Joanna Citko
36. River Dell Regional High School.....Justin Vitetta
37. Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Fair Lawn.....Jessica Bergen
38. Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Teaneck.....Molly Neff
39. Union Middle School, Rutherford.....Tricia Lalla
40. Waldwick High School.....Jaime Forste
41. Wood-Ridge Jr./Sr. HS.....Melissa Manolakakis

PLAN YOUR DAY

This form is designed to help you organize your day at the Teen Arts Festival. There will be more than 150 performances, the Art Exhibit and over 80 Workshop presentations to choose from. Be sure to include your scheduled performance(s), other performances that you want to see and hear as well as several workshops to attend. Have a busy, interesting and exciting day.

	Name	Room	Time
My scheduled critique performance	_____	_____	_____
My 2 nd scheduled critique performance	_____	_____	_____
Another performance to attend	_____	_____	_____
Another performance to attend	_____	_____	_____
Workshop One	_____	_____	_____
Workshop Two	_____	_____	_____
Workshop Three	_____	_____	_____
Workshop Four	_____	_____	_____
Other Important Information	_____		



**American Dining Creations at
Bergen Community College, Paramus, N.J.**

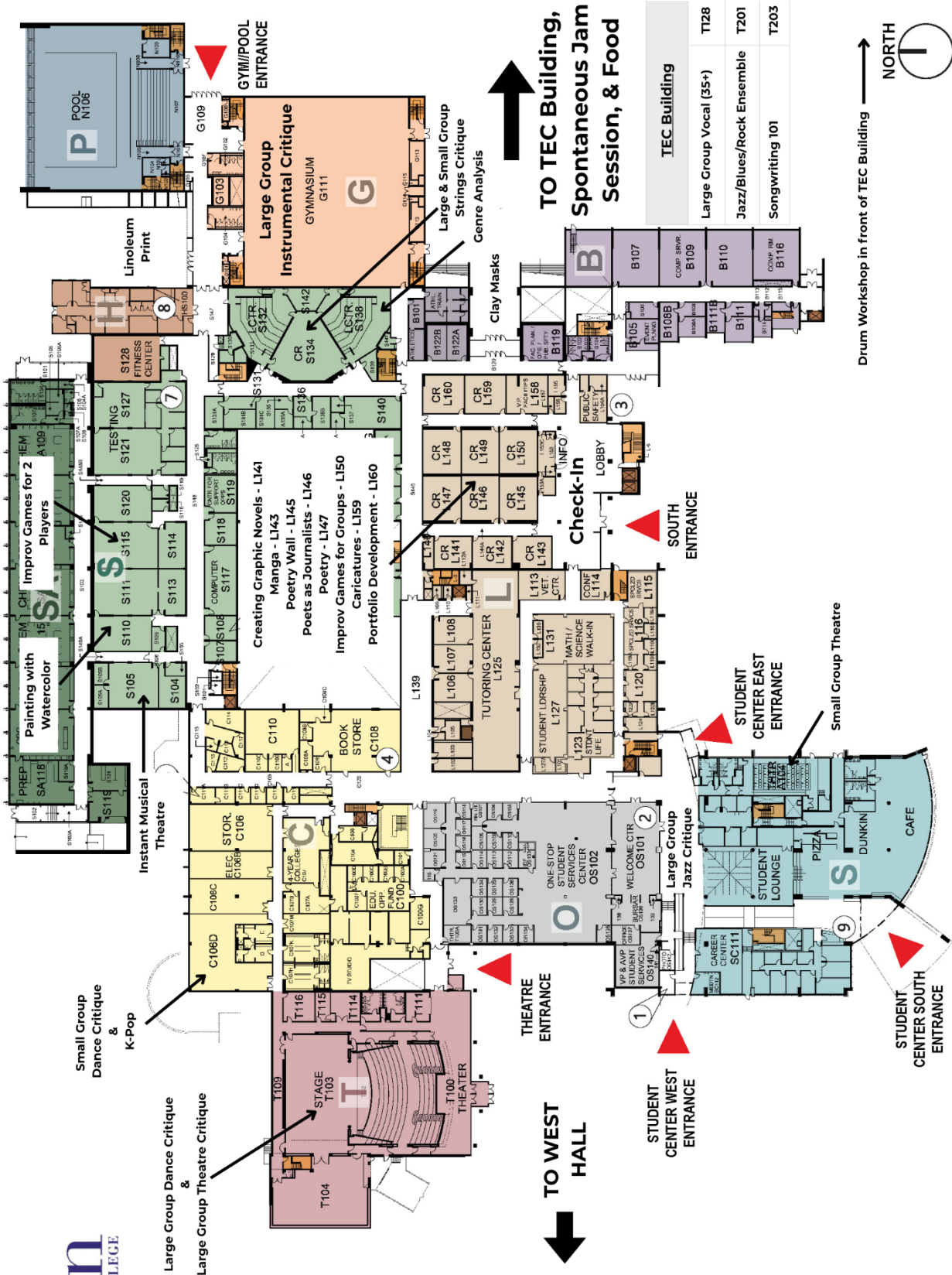
**FOOD TENT MENU
(located on the lawn behind the Technology Building)**

Chicken Fingers, 4 pieces.....	\$5.85
With Fries.....	\$7.10
Hamburger.....	\$5.60
With Fries.....	\$6.85
Cheeseburger.....	\$6.60
With Fries.....	\$7.35
Hot Dog	\$3.00
With Fries.....	\$4.25
California Veggie Burger.....	\$5.15
With Fries.....	\$6.40
Garden Salad.....	\$4.50
Watermelon	\$3.00
Soda – Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew (cans).....	\$1.75
Bottled Water.....	\$1.75
Boba & Smoothies.....	\$5.99

**The Student Center is where you will find a
Starbucks and Primo Pizza.**

**The Cafeteria is located on the 2nd floor in the Pitkin Building. serves
the same menu as the food tent**

**Please throw your garbage in the trash cans provided.
Thank You!**

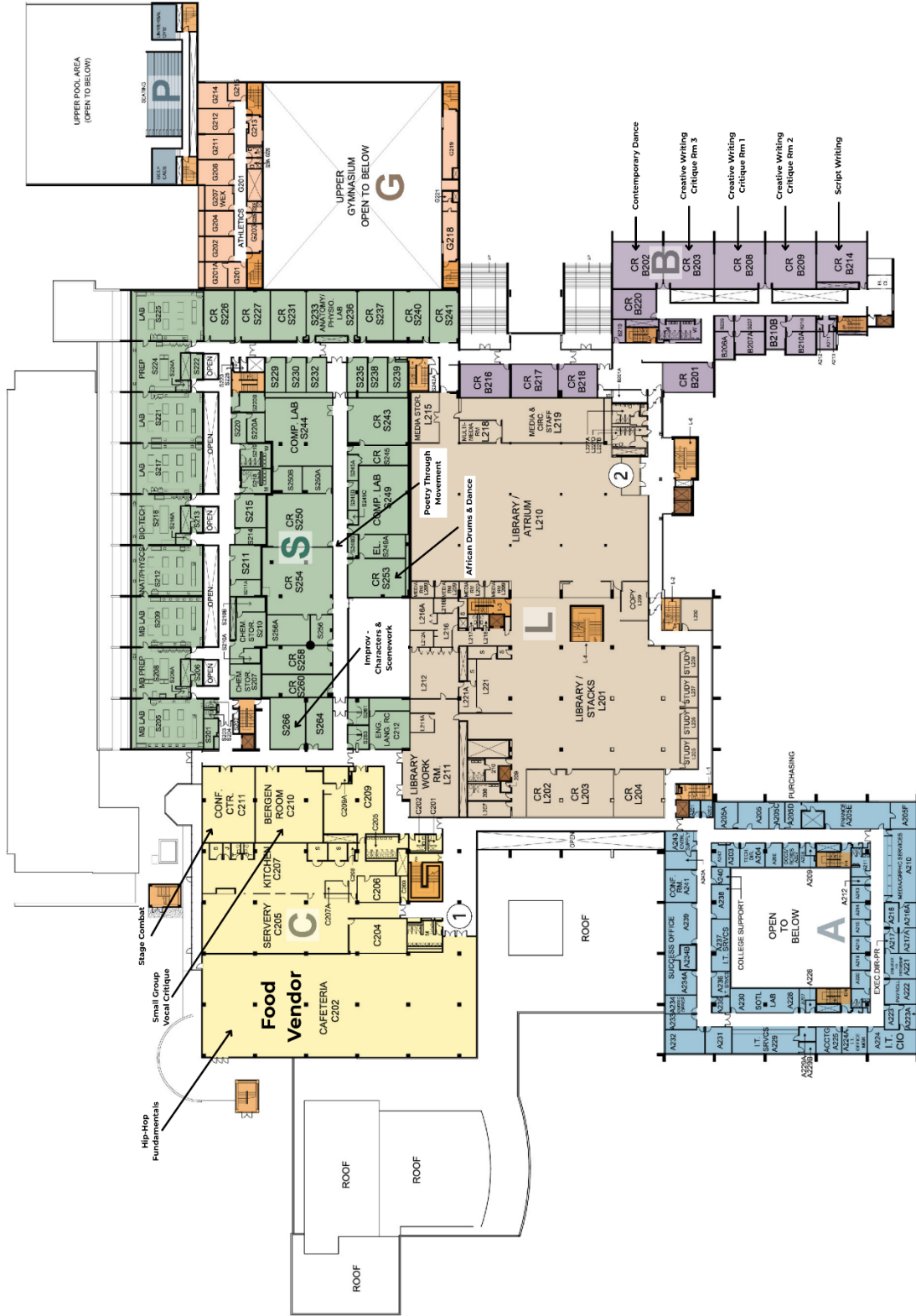


West Hall	
Television Studio Production	W120
Real Life Improvisation	W116
Small Group Instrumental Critique	W219
Small Group Piano Critique	W220
Video Critique	W221
Large Group Vocal Critique	W226
Digital Potato Heads	W317
Monoprint	W326
Art Gallery	W329

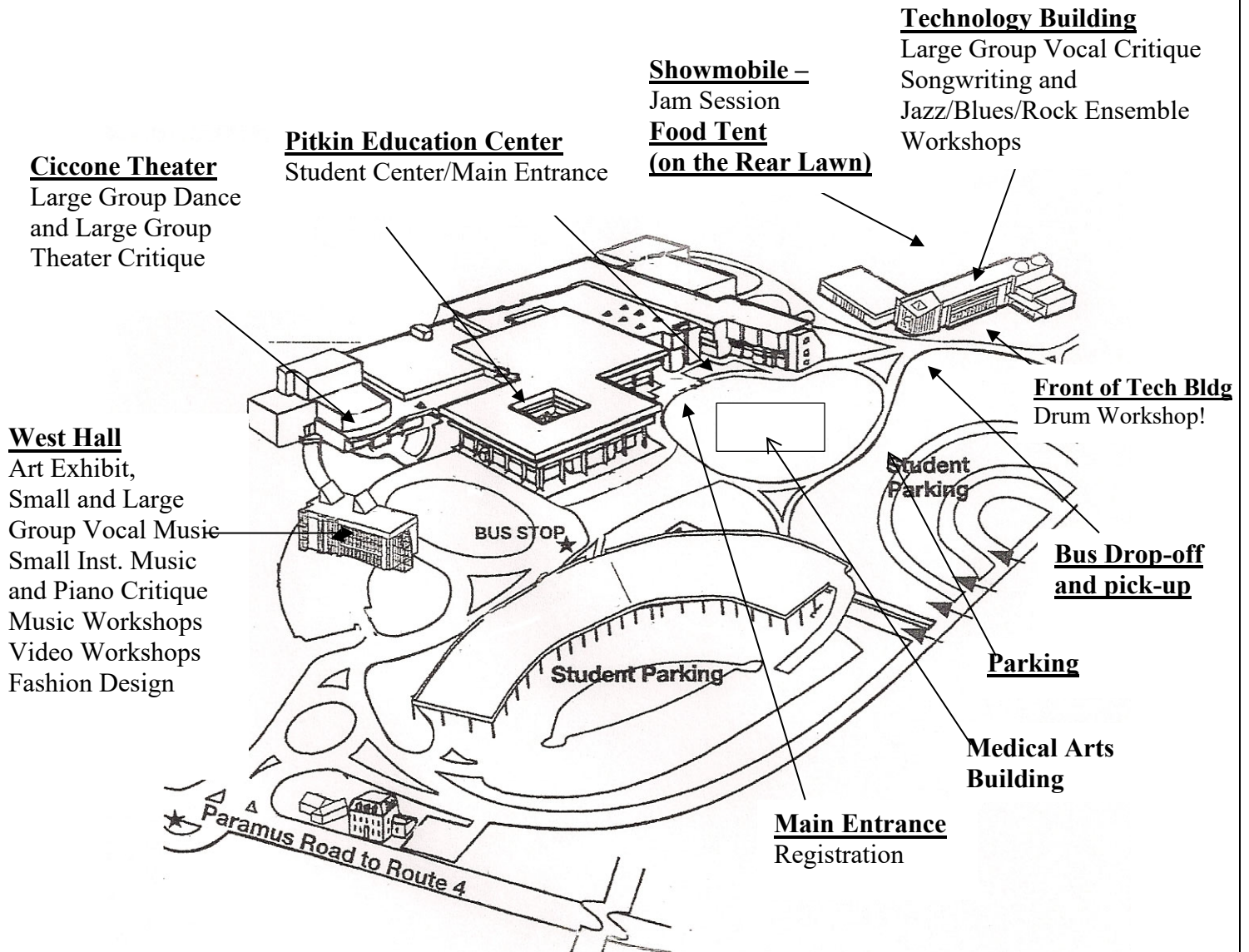
TEC Building	
Large Group Vocal (35+)	T128
Jazz/Blues/Rock Ensemble	T201
Songwriting 101	T203



Drum Workshop in front of TEC Building



Bergen Community College



Facilities designed to accommodate the handicapped

