

# 2025 New Jersey Annual Report

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Image: Evelyn Tejada, 2025 NJ Individual Artist Fellow, at EDANCO festival in the Dominican Republic.  
Credit: Mika Pasco.



Image: The Soul Rebels at Cape May Elementary School, NJ. Credit: Zachary Palumbo.

## About Mid Atlantic Arts

Mid Atlantic Arts supports artists, presenters, and organizations through unique programming, grant support, partnerships, and information sharing. Created in 1979, Mid Atlantic Arts is aligned with the region's state arts councils and the National Endowment for the Arts. We combine state and federal funding with private support from corporations, foundations, and individuals to nurture diverse artistic expression while connecting people to meaningful arts experiences within our region and beyond.

### New Jersey Board Members

- Kim Chan, Maplewood
- John McEwen, Allenhurst
- Kevin O'Brien, Morristown

## MISSION

Our mission is to strengthen and serve the arts and culture ecosystem in the mid-Atlantic region by elevating local voices through accessible resources, programs, and partnerships.

## VISION

A thriving and self-sustaining creative economy in the mid-Atlantic region where investment is amplified, creativity and civic life are bridged, and art is a catalyst for community prosperity and well-being.

## VALUES

### CURIOSITY

Learning, exploring, and working with empathy

### COLLABORATION

Building and nurturing purposeful human connections

### EQUITY

Acknowledging and addressing disparities within the arts

### TRUST

Fostering reliability, open communication and transparency in operations

### ACCESSIBILITY

Expanding opportunities for participation in the arts

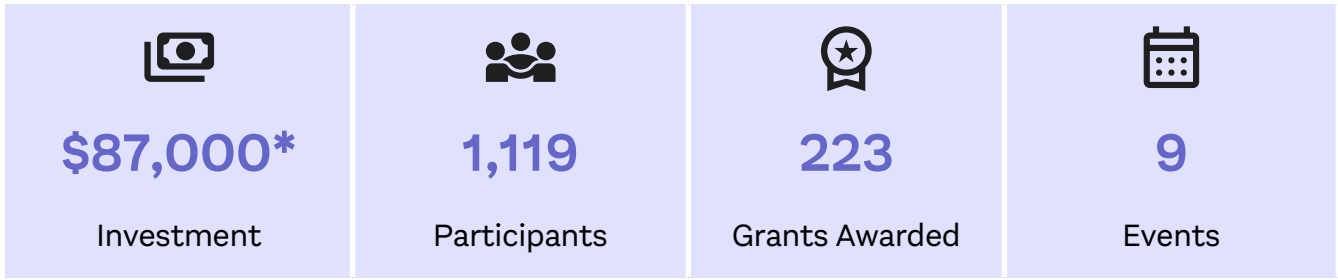
### ADAPTABILITY

Being open to change and committing to innovation



Image: Cultural Sustainability: Community Roots Program Graphic. Credit: Illustration by Uzo Njoku.

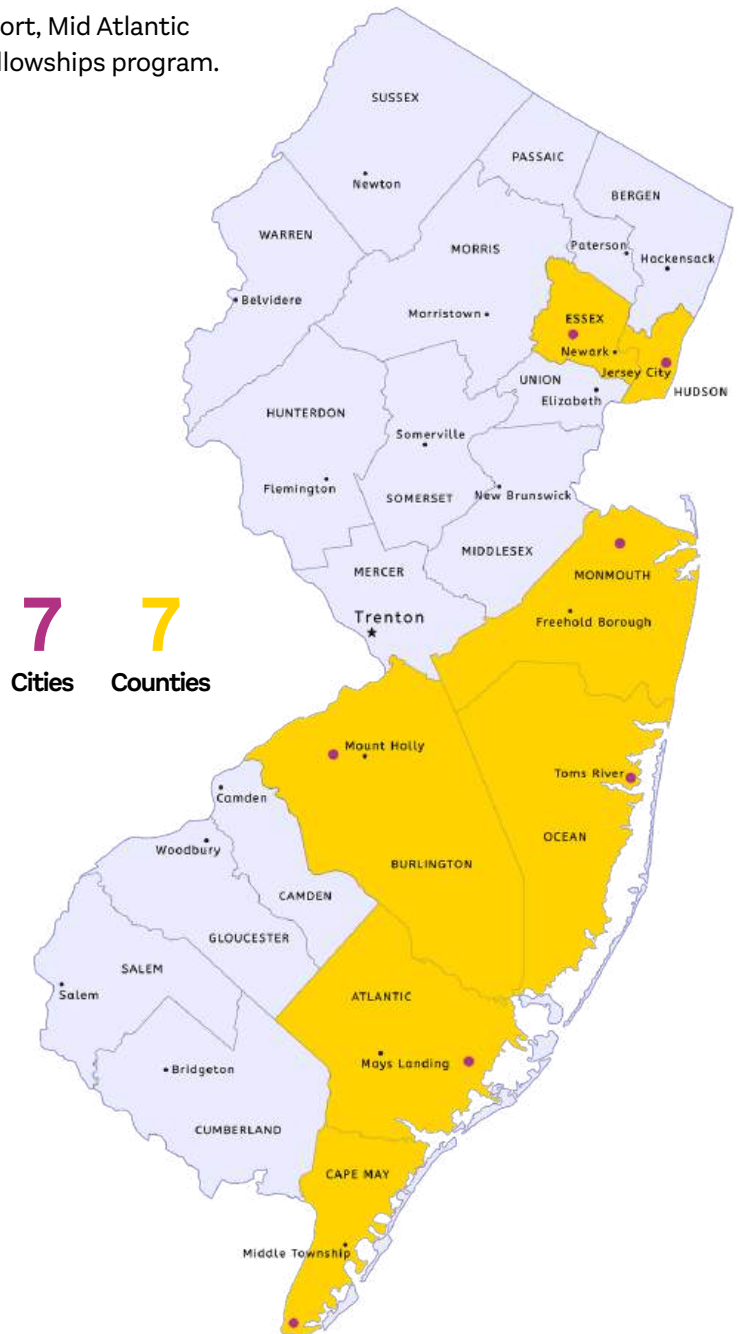
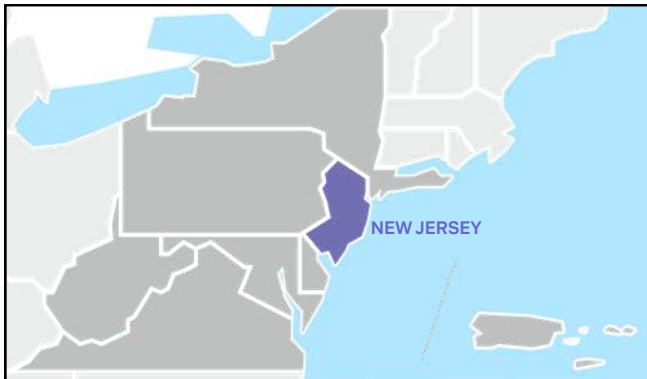
# Impact Summary 2025



## New Jersey Partnership Support \$45,000

\*In addition to the noted grant support, Mid Atlantic administered the \$2,000,000 NJ Fellowships program.

**215** New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowships



Grantees per city	
Galloway	2
Jersey City	2
Matawan	1
Montclair	1
Toms River	2
West Cape May	1
Willingboro	1



Image: Brent Birckhead performs with his jazz quartet at Stockton Performing Arts Center, delivering an evening of improvisation and dynamic rhythms. Credit: Anjanette Christy.

## Reaching Beyond

Stockton University, [Galloway](#)

“This project was designed to expand access to jazz while strengthening connections with both new and existing audiences. In our region, jazz audiences have been less visible due to the genre’s niche perception and the lack of dense jazz networks often found in major cities. With fewer clubs and regular jazz offerings, audiences have limited opportunities to experience live jazz, making intentional audience development especially important.

Support from Mid Atlantic Arts helped reduce financial risk and allowed us to prioritize access, outreach, and awareness over revenue. The funding supported accessible ticket pricing and expanded marketing efforts that reached beyond our core patron base.

Outreach focused on underserved populations, including African American community members, youth and youth at risk, and aging adults. Through a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City, several students and their mentor attended the performance at no cost, offering meaningful exposure to live jazz. Audience demographics reflected a strong mix of backgrounds, reinforcing our theater as a welcoming and, inclusive space.

The project also energized existing patrons through outstanding programming. Brent Birckhead’s performance exceeded expectations and attracted new attendees, including students and alumni from HBCUs, due in part to his connection with Howard University.

**Mid Atlantic Tours: Brent Birckhead at Stockton University, Galloway, NJ.**

# PY2025 Program participation for New Jersey

## Cultural Sustainability: Community Roots

Unrestricted operational support to arts organizations founded by, with, and for communities of color allowing them to sustain and expand their practices, benefiting the communities they serve.

Organization Primary Benefit	Amount
IN FACT, WILLINGBORO	\$47,000
LADIES OF HIP-HOP FESTIVAL, JERSEY CITY	\$67,000

## Jazz Touring Network

Presenter-based membership program supporting professional development, partnerships, and and working together to curate tours that reflect the richness of the field of jazz.

Organization Primary Benefit	Artist/Provider of Services	Amount
CAPE MAY JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION, WEST CAPE MAY	Tuba Skinny, Endea Owens and the Cookout, Ravi Coltrane, Gabrielle Cavassa	\$4,000

## Mid Atlantic Folk and Traditional Arts Community Projects

Funds projects that sustain traditional arts and cultural communities in the region, including public performances, exhibitions, workshops, and collaborations.

Organization Primary Benefit	Artist/Provider of Services	Amount
INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, MATAWAN	Nritya Darpan 25	\$5,600
UMOJA DANCE COMPANY, INC., MONTCLAIR	Bridging the Gap: Umoja Dance Company and Sunu Percu Dance Summer 2025 Exchange (Senegal)	\$6,300

## Mid Atlantic Tours

Brings exemplary performing arts ensembles to communities across the mid-Atlantic region. Presenters can book an artist from the annual roster and receive grant support toward the artist fee.

Organization Primary Benefit	Artist/Provider of Services	Amount
JERSEY CITY THEATER CENTER, INC., JERSEY CITY	Brent Birckhead	\$2,600
OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE, TOMS RIVER	Bindlestiff Family Cirkus	\$2,250
OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE, TOMS RIVER	The Paza Experience	\$4,000
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY, GALLOWAY	Brent Birckhead	\$2,500
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY, GALLOWAY	LauraB	\$2,750

## The National Leaders of Color Fellowships cohort 2024-2025

The National Leaders of Color Fellowships builds multicultural leadership in the arts,

ANNE CHOI, BEDMINSTER

# IMAGINE NEXT

Strategic Plan  
2025-2029



## Model

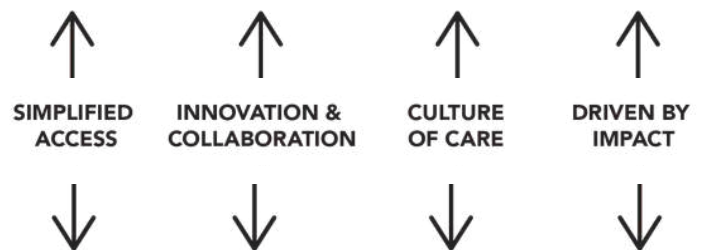
### FOCUS AREAS

#### WHAT WE DO

1. Elevating Local Voices
2. Learning, Connecting, and Convening
3. Working Towards a Sustainable Ecosystem

### OPERATIONAL PILLARS

#### HOW WE DO IT



### NEW HORIZONS

#### WHAT COMES NEXT

- A. From Hyper Local to Global
- B. Art and Technology
- C. Cross-Sector Development