

## LATEST NEWS

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### Arts & Business Council luncheon to honor leaders

The [Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia](#) honored a range of local figures and organizations at its annual luncheon Wednesday.

Awards recognized "the impact these exceptional leaders and outstanding partnerships have made across the Greater Philadelphia Region," the organization said. The luncheon was held at the [Pennsylvania Convention Center](#).

This year's honorees are:

- Sonia Sanchez, Avatar Award for Artistic Excellence. The poet, playwright and teacher was cited for being an advocate for equality "who has achieved worldwide acclaim, embodies artistic achievement, and serves as an inspiration to the entire region."
- Lynne and Harold Honickman, G. Fred DiBona Jr. Individual Leadership Award. The Honickmans were cited for being "activists for the arts" who have "dedicated hard work, personal resources, and their sense of civic responsibility to benefit the [Institute for Contemporary Art](#), [Kimmel Center](#), [Philadelphia Museum of Art and American Poetry Review](#)." Volunteers of the year were cited for outstanding contributions to four council programs. The volunteers were:
- Lori A. Cooper, director business development at [Gillespie Group Marketing & Advertising](#), cited for work on the Business Volunteers for the Arts program.
- John R. Janney, senior director of eBusiness at [Independence Blue Cross](#), was cited for Business on Board work with Philadelphia Children's Theatre.
- Candy S. Gusst, vice president of the Learning Center at [Beneficial Savings Bank](#), was cited for contributions to 10 different arts and cultural organizations through the Business on Call program.
- Cliff Stevens, president of [MyOwnITGuy Inc.](#), cited for contributions to the Atwater Kent Museum and University City Arts League through the Technology Connectors program.

The Business/Arts Partnership Award winners were presented in two categories, major business and small- to mid-sized business:

- WPVI-TV/6 ABC with the [Philadelphia Zoo](#), for a "highly productive and visible business/arts partnership that introduced the Channel 6 Zooballoon to the Philadelphia skyline."
- World Cafe Live with WXPN, for "the unusual collaboration between a for-profit producer of live entertainment and a nonprofit public radio station to establish the World Cafe Live, a newly renovated building that features a world-class performance space for local musicians and a state-of-the-art production and broadcasting facility."

Award sponsors were [Saul Ewing LLP](#), Independence Blue Cross, Harmelin Media, [Accenture](#), [Verizon Foundation](#), [KPMG LP](#) and Peco, an Exelon Co.

The Arts & Business Council, founded in 1981, fosters and builds partnerships between business and the arts.

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