



LIBERTY
ARC

A chapter of **The Arc**
New York

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty ARC Brings Back Creative Expressions Art Show

Agency Celebrates Artists of All Ages and Abilities

Amsterdam – For the first time since 2019, Liberty ARC held their 5th Annual Creative Expressions Art Show to celebrate and recognize over 150 participating artists from across New York State, who submitted 125 works of art in total.

The juried art show held on October 18 at the Century Club in Amsterdam gave artists of all abilities and ages the unique opportunity to showcase their inspiring talent in an inclusive community setting. Artwork from Liberty ARC's *Liberty Through the Arts* program, and six other agencies that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including Autism Services in Buffalo, The Center for Discovery in Harris, The Arc Lexington in Gloversville, and The Arc of Oneida-Lewis in Utica was included in the show. Members of the local artistic community were invited to enter pieces in the show, and more than a dozen pieces were on display, including a painting done by Michael Santabarbara, son of New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, D-Rotterdam.

For more than 12 years *Liberty Through the Arts* program has showcased the inspiration, originality, and enthusiasm of artists with disabilities in Montgomery County.

"The art show is a wonderful Liberty ARC tradition and we're thrilled to have it come back," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. "It's an important outlet for people with disabilities to share a part of themselves creativity with their community, and to showcase the inclusivity, unique outlooks, and perspective on the world that our artists bring. It is motivational seeing the talent and pieces of artwork, from people we support and community members, here at the art show."

Four awards were given out at the show:

1st Place: "Deer is the Forest Princess," by April Welke-Rinaldi

2nd Place: "Love Birds," by Lexse Carsno

3rd Place: "Bacon Barn," by Liberty ARC's Helping Hands Day Hab Program

People's Choice Award: "Snowy Day," by April Welke-Rinaldi

This year's show was made possible by a Walmart Community Grant awarded to Liberty ARC by the Amsterdam Walmart Supercenter.

About Liberty ARC

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, is a not-for-profit agency that provides top-quality supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are proud of our six decades of bringing these innovative and valuable programs to those most vulnerable in our community. While staying committed to our framework the agency has grown our employment, residential, day supports, family support and health-related programming throughout the years. Our mission- *Together we support people with disabilities to achieve a quality of life each person values* - together with our *Values* make up the foundation on which our culture is framed. We are extremely proud to be a pioneering agency, which coupled with a dynamic workforce and our person-centered mission makes Liberty ARC a stand-out in our field.

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