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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Liberty ARC Celebrates Artist With Disabilities With Inclusive Art Show**

**Amsterdam** - Liberty ARC held its seventh annual Creative Expressions juried art show on October 8 at the Century Club in Amsterdam, celebrating and recognizing 175 artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities from across New York State.

Every year, this inclusive event gives artists the opportunity to showcase their unique artistic talents in a welcoming community setting. Participants included artists from Liberty ARC's Liberty Through The Arts program, and other agencies from across the state that support people with disabilities, like AHRC Nassau, Arc Herkimer, The Arc Lexington in Gloversville, The Arc of Oneida-Lewis in Utica, and Saratoga Bridges.

This year's show was made possible with grant funds awarded by Liberty Foundation through their Ground Level Grants program. Ground Level Grants is a competitive internal grant program that exclusively benefits Liberty ARC programs and projects. Ground Level Grants is sponsored and funded by Liberty Foundation to enhance Liberty ARC's mission -- "together we support people with disabilities to achieve a quality of life each person values."

Four awards and four honorable mention certificates were given out at the show.

1st Place: "Pink Magnolia Flower" created by Michele Michaels and Sherley Morales of Liberty ARC

2nd Place: "Flamingo – It's Five O'clock Somewhere" created by Heather Purtell of Liberty ARC

3rd Place: "Caribbean Sunrise" created by Liberty ARC's Academics Class

People's Choice Award: "Pink Magnolia Flower" created by Michele Michaels and Sherley Morales of Liberty ARC

1st Place Honorable Mention: “Flying Flag With Floral Design” created by Liberty ARC

2nd Place Honorable Mention: “Wine Glass” created by Thomisa Keco of Saratoga Bridges

3rd Place Honorable Mention: “Whispers of Fall” created by Casey Battisti of The Arc Lexington

4th Place Honorable Mention: “Beach Chair Sunset” created by Brian Tanner of The Arc of Oneida-Lewis

### **About Liberty ARC**

Liberty ARC, a chapter of The Arc New York, is a not-for-profit agency that provides top-quality supports and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Montgomery and Schenectady Counties. 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.

### **About The Arc New York**

The Arc New York is the largest provider of supports and services for people intellectual and developmental disabilities in New York state. The 35 local Chapters of The Arc New York collectively support more than 60,000 people with disabilities and their families in every county of the state, and employ more than 30,000 people in the shared mission to provide people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities the ordinary and extraordinary opportunities of life. Founded by families more than 75 years ago, The Arc New York continues to be an influential advocate for the rights, opportunities, and inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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