

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**FLEMINGTON**

**DIY**

A Community Arts Organization

26 Stangl Road Flemington, NJ 08822  
[www.flemingtondiy.org](http://www.flemingtondiy.org)  
[flemingtondiy@gmail.com](mailto:flemingtondiy@gmail.com)  
856.431.3692

# WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

Flemington DIY (Do It Yourself) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide an inclusive art space that engages the community with the burgeoning local arts scene, inspires social change, and invigorates the economic development of Flemington, New Jersey.

## VISION

- Providing a safe and accessible outlet for community members' expression
- Showcasing socially-conscious ideas and promoting networks between others
- Actively combating sexism, homophobia, racism, and other forms of oppression
- Creating a safer space for everyone

In May 2014, Flemington DIY was founded by a local group of young artists and musicians. With assistance from the Flemington Business Improvement Office, they found a temporary home in the borough-owned 90 Main Building, once a bank, but vacant for years. "The Space," as it's become to some, immediately began hosting art shows, concerts, and film screenings. Since then, Flemington DIY has transformed into a flourishing center for community life for all ages, hosting over 1,000 unique events (300+ in 2023) while sustaining on the generosity of donations, grants, events, and sustaining members.

In 2022, the organization relocated to a new space in the heart of Stangl's Arts and Cultural District.



**ALL AGES  
NONPROFIT  
VOLUNTEER-RUN  
COMMUNITY ARTS SPACE**

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The art space hosts several recurring groups and programs, some weekly, others monthly. Such offerings include: Print Club, hands-on open hours for screen-printing and printmaking; Fiber Freaks, a crocheting and knitting group; Time to Create, open studio time for adults; Songwriter Circle, First Fridays Print Club for Homeschoolers, and more. All programs are donation-based, and no one is turned away due to lack of funds.

Monthly poetry open mics and Makers Markets have become popular events on the calendar - featuring a wide variety of local participants, with ages ranging from pre-teen to seniors.

For 5 years in a row, Flemington DIY has hosted Black History Month celebrations; participated in Teen Arts; and hosted jazz series featuring renowned players from across the globe.



A complete list of past events can be found at [flemingtondiy.org/pastevents](https://flemingtondiy.org/pastevents)

LIVING IN THE  
GARDEN STATE

IT'S HAPPENING  
AGAIN

ASSOCIATION  
OF  
IDENTIFICATION

1st ANNUAL  
MEMBER &  
VOLUNTEER  
SHOW

TRANS  
ANGEL

ART CANS  
COLLAB  
W/LONE EAGLE

2023  
ART  
SHOWS

REYNOLDS 30th  
ANNIVERSARY  
EXHIBIT

2nd ANNUAL  
TAKE ME HOME  
TONIGHT

PIECES OF  
THE MOON

WE'RE ALL  
STUCK HERE,  
MIGHT AS WELL  
GET ALONG

# SOCIAL INITIATIVES

Flemington DIY ensures a space and platform for social change, often partnering with area organizations to raise awareness and support for various causes. This includes benefits for the [NJ Abortion Access Fund](#), [Jersey Battered Women's Service](#), the [Coalition for Animals](#), [Hunterdon Humane Animal Shelter](#), the [ACLU](#), and [Hunterdon Helpline](#).

Additionally, Flemington DIY has participated in school supply and clothing and food drives, and has been the home of [Music Together](#), [Hunterdon County Anti-Racism Coalition](#), [Moms Demand Action](#) monthly meetings, and [Flemington QTs](#) events, a local queer and trans community group.



Since 2014, Flemington DIY has hosted over 1,000 unique events (300+ in 2023), attracting hundreds of people to Flemington, NJ. This space has established itself as an essential mainstay in the New Jersey arts scene, supporting live musical performances, staged theatrical productions, art installations, cultural and historical presentations, and discussions about social issues - all stimulating the vitality and economic growth of this town.

Flemington DIY has attracted musicians and performers alike from all over the globe - from New Jersey to California, Canada, Scotland, and Argentina, and even Tuva, a small Russian republic in southern Siberia.

# COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

## 9 LIVES IPA



To celebrate Flemington DIY's 9 year anniversary, friends at Lone Eagle Brewing unveiled this limited brew, donating a portion of sales back to the arts space. This is the second beer collab with the brewery.

Past collaborations also include: community beat-making with the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University; a 15-mile group bike ride spear-headed by Party Size Cycling; and hosting a Makers Market with NJAAF benefitting abortion access in New Jersey.

## PAST & PRESENT PARTNERS

- Hunterdon Academy of the Arts
- Hunterdon Central Regional High School
- Oldwick Community Players
- Hunterdon Helpline
- Jersey Battered Women's Service
- Hunterdon County Anti-Racism Coalition
- ACLU
- Hunterdon Humane Animal Shelter
- Moms Demand Action
- The Photographers Group
- Black Lab Imaging
- Raritan Learning Cooperative
- Meta Theatre Company
- Franklin Theatre Works
- True Voice Project
- Flemington Free Public Library
- The New Brunswick Jazz Project
- Dr. Michael Viega and the David Ott Lab for Music and Health at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University
- Masterful Mosaics NJ
- Girls In Gear
- Music Together Flemington
- Art Venture
- Party Size Cycling
- Flemington QTs
- Lone Eagle Brewing
- New Brunswick Jazz Project
- WPRB
- WDVR
- YOUR NAME HERE!

# AWARDS & HONORS

- Recipient of Downtown NJ's Tools of the Trade Platinum of Excellence Award, 2014
- Participants in NJ Future's 10th Anniversary Redevelopment Forum, 2015
- Presented on "Public Art in Public Spaces" at NJ Future Redevelopment Forum, 2018



## FLEMINGTON DIY HAS RECEIVED GRANTS AND GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:

- FLEMINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
- HUNTERDON COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION
- HOLT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- MASTERWORK MUSIC & ARTS FOUNDATION
- CHANCY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
- TAPINTO FLEMINGTON/RARITAN
- FLEMINGTON CAR & TRUCK COUNTRY

and more!

# NAVIGATING THE PANDEMIC

In the wake of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, Flemington DIY shifted to virtual programming and building community online. Out of that came a collection of art shows, live performances, open mics, various classes, and the launch of a biweekly Black Youth Meet Up - a Black-led virtual space for Black youth ages 15-18 to connect, bond, and share their experiences in a safe, inspiring, and empowering space.

In the warmer months, Flemington DIY turned to outdoor pop-up events at various locations in town, leading to two town-wide scavenger hunts, a series of bike maintenance workshops, supply drives for various organizations, and Jazz on the Lawn, a highly successful outdoor jazz series, among other programs.



In fall 2021, Flemington DIY mobilized supporters to raise funds for a new physical space, resulting in a successful drive to fund re-start up costs.



In preparation for reopening, volunteer orientations took place, recruiting and onboarding nearly 50 volunteers.



To financially support a new endeavor, a sustaining membership program was launched, welcoming over 60 members after its first year.



# A NEW LOOK IN A NEW SPACE

May 2021 saw the reopening of Flemington DIY, emerging from the pandemic at a new location in the heart of Flemington's up-and-coming Arts & Cultural District along Stangl Road.



Ahead of that milestone, the organization unveiled a new brand identity, complete with a refined logo, color palette, and other creative assets, all now synonymous with Flemington DIY.



# WHY INVEST?

When you invest in Flemington DIY, you provide an inclusive space for local artisans, hobbyists, actors, musicians, and students of all ages, races, genders, and abilities to create and present their works.

You afford opportunities to those who otherwise may never have the platform to do so.

The volunteers that make up Flemington DIY are dedicated to ensuring events and programs run smoothly. This hands-on approach allows Flemington DIY to operate within the boundaries of fiscal prudence.



# GET IN TOUCH

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Hersch, Executive Director  
Bill Auld  
Ruth Cooper  
Ellen Gallos  
Gina Hersch  
Nicole Maniez  
Delfina Picchio  
Judd Roth  
Erin Mae Szrankowski, Treasurer

## MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

[flemingtondiy.org/donate](http://flemingtondiy.org/donate)

## PARTNER WITH US

Email: [flemingtondiy@gmail.com](mailto:flemingtondiy@gmail.com)  
Phone: 856.431.3692



@flemingtondiy



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