**Hammonton Posada Celebration for Unity**
A community gathering to bridge differences: The first Hammonton Posada, a celebration common in Hispanic countries, brought together hundreds of residents of different backgrounds in December 2016 to foster curiosity, openness, tolerance and unity. The celebration, sponsored by the nonprofit Allies in Caring Inc., the NJ Pinelands Commission, and Hammonton MainStreet, among others, included traditional Hispanic Christmas crafts, stories, singing, piñatas and food donated by local businesses.

http://www.alliesincaring.org/

*Ivette Guillermo-McGahee, MA, ACS, LPC, Founder & Executive Director – Allies in Caring, Inc.*
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**Youth Healing Team Takes Trauma-Informed Care to Camden Schools**
The Hopeworks ’N Camden Youth Healing Team bring their trauma-informed care educational program – created and delivered by teens for teens – to Camden City schools to educate students, faculty and staff on addressing behavioral issues. This year their work gained the attention – and the top prize – of the Scattergood Foundation Innovation Award at the National Council of Behavioral Health conference. The Hopeworks Youth Healing Team was nominated alongside nationally recognized institutions, including the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Dartmouth Centers for Health and Aging. http://hopeworks.org/

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*Will Shrieks, Youth Healing Team – Hopeworks ’N Camden*

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**Addressing Vacancy, Business Development & Creative Placemaking through Innovative Financial Services**
NJ Community Capital provides innovative financial and technical assistance for homes, educational facilities, creative placemaking initiatives and employment opportunities in multiple NJ communities. NJCC’s THRIVE South Jersey initiative supports businesses and economic development and their pilot program “Lights on Downtown” helps the purchase and renovation of mixed use buildings on commercial corridors to reduce vacancies. NJCC also helps main streets organizations to work collaboratively with cultural institutions as anchors to attract other cultural and ancillary businesses. https://www.newjerseycommunitycapital.org/

*Joe Palazzolo, Lending Team Leader of Education & Early Care – NJCC*

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*Laura Wallick, Program Manager – NJCC*

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**Statewide News with a Local Focus – the NJTV “In Your Neighborhood” Program**
NJTV’s In Your Neighborhood program is a new initiative that takes public television deeper into the community through special programming, including live broadcasts from communities aimed at highlighting specific issues that affect local residents and live panel discussions with community members. www.njtvonline.org/

*Selma Betancourt, Community Engagement – NJTV*

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**Transformational Partnerships and Creative Placemaking in Orange**
Learn about a long-term, transformative, collaborative partnership in Orange between ValleyArts - a creative placemaking and community arts organization – and HANDS, Inc. – a community development corporation – that has led to multiple projects at the intersection of arts, culture, community development and transportation. www.valleyartsnj.com/ https://handsinc.org/

*Luther Flurry, Executive Director – HANDS, Inc.*

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*Candace Lee, Executive Director – ValleyArts*

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Creative New Jersey’s 2017 Annual Statewide Summit
Community Round-Robin Presenters

SESSION 2

Improving Health through Collaboration and Policy & Environmental Change
EZ Ride’s Bike & Pedestrian team is using Safe Routes to School, StreetSmartNJ, Get ActiveNJ, NJ Healthy Cornerstore and other healthy community grants to promote active living and healthy eating, and to reduce health barriers and disparities. The team is working with schools, municipalities, and community partners in Asbury Park, Bloomfield, Elizabeth, Long Branch, Orange, Plainfield, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, and several other NJ communities. You will hear about a few of their initiatives and get ideas about how you can creatively partner with others to improve the health of your community and make a little money go a long way. www.ezride.org

Lisa Lee, Project Dir./Mngr. – Alliance for a Healthier Asbury Park / Bike & Ped Program  llee@ezride.org

Engaging Journalists and Residents for a Stronger Local Media and Democracy
Journalists and media organizations have a pivotal place in convening community conversations about important issues and local challenges. Residents have a wealth of knowledge about what viable steps can happen in order for there to be positive change in their communities. Free Press will discuss how they have brought residents and journalists together and how each can play an important role in reviving local media in communities around the garden state. https://www.newsvoices.org/new-jersey

James Thompson, Organizer – Free Press/Free Press Action Fund; News Voices: New Jersey  jthompson@freepress.net

Innovative Partnerships to Tackle Our Water Infrastructure
Jersey Water Works is a statewide collaborative working to transform New Jersey’s inadequate water infrastructure through sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide communities with clean water and waterways; healthier, safer neighborhoods; local jobs; flood and climate resilience; and economic growth. www.jerseywaterworks.org/

Jane Rosenblatt, Program Manager - New Jersey Future/Jersey Water Works  jrosenblatt@njfuture.org

Urban Farming & Community Center Team Up to Feed Camden’s Children
Seasoned restauranteur and entrepreneur Fredric Byarm’s passion for food & urban farming to address food insecurity found fertile ground in a new partnership with The Neighborhood Center – a community center serving over 47,000 meals a year to Camden’s young people, in addition to other programs focused on academics, arts and athletics. www.neighborhoodrising.org/

Fredric Byarm, Executive Chef and Urban Farmer – The Neighborhood Center  fredricbyarm@gmail.com
Vedra Chandler, Associate Director – The Neighborhood Center  vedra@ncicamden.com

Atlantic City’s Grassroots Collaborations Have Citizens Leading Change
Atlantic City’s collaborative initiatives are taking off and accelerating: Learn about multiple collaborative, inclusive and creative initiatives including ThisIsAC – a grassroots branding and marking initiative for the city; the launch of the Ducktown Neighborhood Association; and the 48-Block Project – a city-wide arts celebration in which each of Atlantic City’s six wards will showcase eight arts projects for the public, coming up on June 24, 2017. http://www.artsgarageac.com/  http://noyesmuseum.org/

Michael Cagno, Executive Director – The Noyes Museum of Art at Stockton University  mcagno@noyesmuseum.org

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