

Citation of Excellence from New Jersey State Council on the Arts

(JULY 29, 2013) TRENTON, New Jersey – People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos is pleased to receive a Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The citation was announced in conjunction with a grant award of \$16,733 for general operating needs.

Awards were announced at the Arts Council's 47th Annual Meeting. Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno expressed that the grants made by the Council on the Arts "will serve as a catalyst for the economic growth and creative vitality of communities statewide. The cultural assets in every region help shape New Jersey as... a desirable place to live, work, do business, and raise a family."

The Citation of Excellence demonstrates that People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos is one of thirty-four arts organizations or projects in the state that received the highest evaluations from an independent panel. The panelists' comments on People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos included, "There is a strong focus on high quality literature programming within the social services setting. The quality of artists engaged and the distinctive literary selections reflect programmatic excellence."

This is the fifth year in a row that the organization has been awarded a Citation of Excellence. "We are pleased and honored to be recognized once again by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts with a generous grant and a Citation of Excellence." said Georgia Whidden, Board President, commenting on the citation.

About People and Stories / Gente y Cuentos

People & Stories / Gente y Cuentos, a reading and discussion program offered in English or Spanish, creates unique access to literature. Participants draw upon their own experiences to examine and discuss the poetics, issues, and values present in complex short stories. We have a forty year history of offering high quality literature programs at community organizations in and around New Jersey. In 2012, we provided ninety-nine programs and reached over 1,800 individuals through a combination of our local programs and a nation-wide project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. *To learn more, please visit <http://www.peopleandstories.org/>.*