

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024

CORRECTION ISSUED: May 22, 2024

Opening Reception Date Amended to Thursday, July 18, 2024

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Announcing the Opening of *NetWorks Rhode Island and the Chazan Collection: A Half-Century of RI Artistic Patronage* an Exhibition of Over 100 Rhode Island Artists at the WaterFire Arts Center

July 11 - September 1, 2024

Large-Scale Exhibition with 100+ Rhode Island Artists

Opening Night: Thursday, July 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

Providence, RI WaterFire Providence announces *NetWorks Rhode Island and the Chazan Collection: A Half-Century of RI Patronage*. This large-scale exhibition will be in the 15,000 sq. ft. Main Hall and the Gallery at the WaterFire Arts Center (WFAC) and will feature over 100 NetWorks Rhode Island artists. The exhibition will be on view from Thursday, July 11, 2024, and close on September 1, 2024 with an opening reception on Thursday, July 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NetWorks Rhode Island and the Chazan Collection celebrates a dynamic community of innovative artists living and working in this state and their champion, Joseph A. Chazan M.D. [NetWorks Rhode Island](#), initiated in 2008 by Dr. Chazan in collaboration with Umberto Crenca, documented and celebrated the work of 113 Rhode Island artists through the videography of Richard Goulis and photo portraits by Scott Lapham, Lucas Foglia, and Miguel Rosario. WaterFire Providence gathered these documentaries into an accessible website to showcase the brilliance of contemporary artists across the state.

About the exhibition, NetWorks Rhode Island founder Dr. Chazan said, “The WaterFire Arts Center is the ideal site for an exhibition that’s all about the excellence of Rhode Island artists. WaterFire has hosted the NetWorks archive (networksri.org) for several years, and WaterFire creator Barnaby Evans is himself a NetWorks artist. This large exhibition will provide even greater exposure to the extraordinary richness of the visual arts in Rhode Island. This was my motivation for creating NetWorks Rhode Island.”

This exhibition features artwork from Dr. Chazan's collection together with additional works by the NetWorks RI artists. *NetWorks Rhode Island and the Chazan Collection* exhibition is a collaboration

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between WaterFire Providence, Dr. Chazan, and Candita Clayton, owner of the Candita Clayton Gallery and Collections Manager for the Dr. Chazan Collection.

"I have been managing the collection of Dr. Chazan for the past fourteen years. It has been a privilege to get to know the NetWorks artists through documenting their work, making studio visits, and curating two other projects around their practice," says Candita Clayton. "This exhibition will be a combination of current works in the collection as well as new pieces from each of the artists. I'm proud and excited to be part of the project."

"These artists create fascinating, powerful, and compelling art to grace our lives. We are tremendously excited to be presenting such a broad and varied exhibition of brilliant art for the public to enjoy and discover," says Barnaby Evans, Executive Artistic Director of WaterFire. "We built the WaterFire Arts Center precisely to be a venue for this sort of exciting show. Come be astounded by the brilliance of our artists."

Gallery Night Providence trolley will be stopping at the WFAC as well as other galleries in the city on Thursday, July 18, and Thursday, August 15. The [11th Providence Fringe Festival](#) will host performances amongst the exhibition from Sunday, July 14 to Saturday, July 27. WaterFire Providence will be partnering with their neighbors in the Valley, [Troop PVD](#) to bring back TroopTop Thursdays to the roof deck every Thursday in the Summer, including the seven Thursdays throughout the run of the exhibition. Artist talks will be given on select Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons during the run of the exhibition.

The WFAC store + gallery are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays. *Networks Rhode Island and the Chazan Collection: A Half-Century of RI Artistic Patronage* (waterfire.org/networksri) is free and open to all, donations are encouraged.

For more about the WaterFire Arts Center, visit waterfire.org/wfac or follow [@waterfireartscenter](#) on Instagram.

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About WaterFire Providence

WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire contributing over \$149,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island, and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit <https://waterfire.org/>.

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About the WaterFire Arts Center

WaterFire Providence purchased the Art Center in 2012 and began rehabilitation for the vacant, historic, industrial building in the underserved Olneyville/Valley neighborhood of Providence. The 37,000 sq. ft. multi-use arts center has become WaterFire's first permanent home in the community and serves as its headquarters, production complex, and multi-purpose arts venue as well as a social enterprise platform strengthening the organization's long-term financial sustainability. Exhibitions presented at WaterFire Arts Center will further the organization's agenda of providing arts and culture opportunities and experiences for all, regardless of social, cultural, or economic background. For more information about the WaterFire Arts Center including rental inquiries, please visit: <https://waterfire.org/wfac>

About Joseph A. Chazan, M.D.

Dr. Chazan is a steadfast advocate for WaterFire and a prominent arts philanthropist within Rhode Island and Providence communities. His wealth of knowledge and experience has been instrumental in shaping the development of the WaterFire Arts Center (WFAC) and its programs. Dr. Chazan has been deeply involved with various projects at The Steel Yard, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, AS220, Farm Fresh, and the Providence Public Library, among others.