Dear NPAA members,

Mercyhurst University has a School of the Arts! Wait? That’s nothing new. Or is it? While Mercyhurst has a long-standing tradition of the Arts. In fact, Art Education is the oldest major at Mercyhurst University—1926. It was not until 2023 that the School of the Arts was born. Together in a school model, the Arts—Fine, Design, Dance, Music, Theatre and Communication—do so much.

The MU School of the Arts puts on 74 performances every school year (AKA 9 months) including three student theatre productions, four major ballets, The Roche Music Series, Faculty Collage performances, student recitals, and fine art exhibits, and many other creative endeavors. As busy as the faculty and student body is, we always strive to do more, better. We need the help of the greater Arts community to solve this latest need.

1. Allison will be displaying her Senior Art Thesis. All twelve pieces need framed.
*Could we subsidize Allison’s Framing expenses?*
2. The Junior Theatre Majors wish to travel to NYC.
*Can we help fund their transportation?*
3. Kole wants to attend a Summer Clarinet Academy, but he will need financial assistance to attend.
*Can we support a student’s competitive edge financially?*
4. Peter wants to attend the Creative Pro conference to learn the latest design software.
*Who helps with continuing education?*

These are all scenarios from a day in a student Artists’ life. Mercyhurst has prepared them well for a future in Dance, Art, Design, Communication, Theatre, and Music. Now, it is time to step to the next level in their chosen field. And, as their professors and mentors, we’d like to help scholarship those efforts. That is why we are hosting an Arty Party Auction & Lottery. It will be an evening celebration of all things Arts with food & drink, performances, student testimonials, a silent auction, basket raffle, and an art lottery. This auction event will begin to finance the “*Excellence in the Arts*” Fund but, not without your generous help.

Do you have a work of Art could be part of the Arts Lottery? If so, I’d like to talk to you. Without your donation, the Lottery will not exist; the fund will not materialize; and students will be farther away from fulfilling their potential and dreams. If your artwork is chosen by a lottery winner, you will receive a check for $250.\* As a participant you will receive a ticket to the Arty Party show and link to the online Silent Auction loaded with art and services provided by students and faculty. Tickets to the VIP Reception and entry in the Lottery can be purchased for an upcharge as there are only 120 tickets available. The lottery drawing will be based on 1 winner per 12 people.

We also need those who are interested in purchasing Art and services to support the *Excellence in the Arts* Fund. The night will be a fun-filled experience of all the Arts at Mercyhurst. You’ll meet some students. Be entertained by others. And support even more when you make your purchase or tax-deductible donation.

On behalf of the 272 Arts students, the 25 full and part-time Arts Faculty and Staff members, and our many adjunct and contract Arts instructors that are Mercyhurst University School of the Arts, I thank you for donating, attending, and purchasing good and services from the Arty Party Auction & Lottery.

Please reach out to Jodi Staniunas Hopper at jstaniunashopper@mercyhurst.edu or 814-450-1034 for more information and to make arrangements for your participation in this exciting inaugural event.

Sincerely,

Professor Jodi Staniunas Hopper

School of the Arts, Dean

Professor of Art/ Design

\* *For works priced at $400 or greater. We will also accept donation of other artworks for the silent auction.*