Aspiring director? Showcase your creative talents by entering the 2012 Passaic County Film Festival. Now in its 8th year, the Film Festival is an annual juried exhibition of student and independent filmmakers’ work. The only entry requirement is that those who submit videos must live, attend school or work in Passaic County.

Directors should note that videos should contain child-friendly footage—no R-rated material such as nudity, graphic violence, drug use or drug references, and alcohol or cigarette consumption.

Categories are general short film, public service announcement, documentary/historical and music video, with one grand prize for best overall film. Entrees will be selected from high school classes and college/independent classes. A 50 point evaluation criteria will be used, scoring on creativity, theme, technical merit, actor performance and direction. Deadline Jan. 30.

The screening of the films will take place on April 14 at The Fabian 8 Theater in Center City Mall, 301 Main St., Paterson. Registration and screening are both free. For info, contact the Passaic County Film Commission at 973-569-4720 or film@passaiccountynj.org.
The Paterson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in cooperation with the NAACP, Paterson branch will present the 19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Celebration on Jan. 16. The program begins at 9:30 am at St. Luke Baptist Church, 139 Carroll St. Paterson, with welcoming remarks by Pastor Rev. Kenneth D. Clayton. The guest speaker will be Pastor Torise Hiller, Esteemed Soror. The musical presentation is by the MLK Choir, under the direction of Dr. Michelle Williams. Essay contest winners will also be presented with awards. For information, contact chapter President Vivian Gaines or Janis Lindsay, Arts and Letters Committee at 973-432-6702 or janpan118@optonline.net.

St. Paul’s After School program will host a national day of service and learning to honor Martin Luther King Jr., on Jan. 16. Geared towards children ages 7 to 12 and run in cooperation with AmeriCorps members, the day begins at 9 am with breakfast. From there, students participate in workshops on leadership and responsibility, as well as a scavenger hunt with clues related to key dates and people associated with the Civil Rights movement. They will also be helping to package items ranging from soap and toothpaste to cookies and candy for troops serving abroad. To contribute items for the care packages, call Shantia Clyburn at 973-278-7900 x 29 or drop off items at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 451 Van Houten St., Paterson.

The Enso String Quartet, featuring guest pianist Aaron Wunsch, will perform at the Ringwood Friends of Music on Jan. 28 at the Community Presbyterian Church, 145 Carletondale Rd., Ringwood. The Enso String Quartet, which was founded at Yale University and was nominated for a 2010 Grammy in Best Chamber Music Performance, will perform works by Boccherini, Grieg and Schumann at this free event. Rain Date Jan. 29. For more info, call 973-962-4477.

The New Legacy Concert Series hosts the Alexis P. Suter Band on Jan. 29 at 2 pm performing their powerful sound of roots, blues and soul music. Tickets $15. On Mardi Gras Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 pm, the Grammy award winning band Buckwheat Zydeco rolls into Ringwood. Tickets are $25. The Ringwood Public Library is at 30 Cannici Dr. Call 973-962-6256 or go to www.ringwoodlibrary.org.

‘The Way It Is’, is a competition open to middle and high schoolers, sponsored by Action Theatre Conservatory Studios in Clifton. Students submit short one-act plays that reflect the way they see the world. Six to twelve selected pieces will receive a production at ATC in 2012, and the top three pieces will be taped and posted to the internet. Students may submit their short one-acts, for 2-10 actors, with simple tech requirements to atcstudios3@gmail.com. Include name, age, grade and school. Deadline is March 15.
The Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council (PCCHC) at Passaic County Community College has awarded grants for arts and history programs and events, which are scheduled to take place in Passaic County during 2012. Forty-four Passaic County organizations received a total of $62,207 in funding through the Local Arts Program Grant. This grant is made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Additionally, through a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, five county organizations received a total of $7,517 in re-grant funds for local or New Jersey history projects.

The following Passaic County organizations were awarded 2012 arts grants ranging from $800 to $2,120 for a variety of programs, including concerts, dance, theater, and art exhibits:

- Action Theatre Conservatory Studios, Inc., Clifton; American Hungarian Museum, Passaic; American Labor Museum / Botto House National Landmark, Haledon; Arco Ensemble, Woodland Park; Bloomingdale Senior Center; Boys & Girls Club of Clifton; Catholic Family & Community Services, Paterson; Chopin Singing Society, Passaic; City of Passaic Dept. of Human Services; Clifton Arts Center, Inc.; Clifton Recreation Department; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Paterson; Friends of the Long Pond Iron Works, Hewitt; Friends of the Louis Bay 2nd Library, Hawthorne; Future Scholars Learning Center, Paterson; Greater Paterson OIC; Harmony Singers, Wayne; Heart of Hannah Women’s Center, Paterson; Holy Rosary Young Men’s Club, Passaic; Inner City Ensemble, Paterson; Iron Mountain Stage Company, Ringwood; Juvenile Education & Awareness Project, Passaic; Little Falls Alliance for a Better Community; Medical Missions/The Giggles Children’s Theater, Paterson; Mental Health Clinic of Passaic; Music at the Mission, West Milford; New Jersey Foundation for Dance and Theatre Arts, Wanaque; New Jersey Music & Arts, Inc., Clifton; North Jersey Media Group Foundation, Woodland Park; Passaic Board of Education/Speech & Drama Club of Passaic High School; Passaic County Motion Picture & Television Film Commission, Totowa; Passaic Public Library; Paterson Free Public Library; Paterson Museum; Paterson Youth Photography Project; Ringwood Friends of Music; Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts; Ringwood Public Library; St. Catherine’s of Bologna Performing Arts Guild, Ringwood; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (After School Program), Paterson; St. Timothy Musicales, Wayne; Theater League of Clifton, Inc; Township of West Milford; and the Wayne Public Library.

The Ringwood Friends of Music is one of 44 Passaic County organizations receiving a 2012 arts re-grant from PCCHC. RFM will be presenting the Enso Strong Quartet at the Community Presbyterian Church on Jan. 28.

The five organizations receiving grants for local or New Jersey history projects include: the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, Haledon; Hawthorne Historical Society; Passaic Public Library; Ringwood Public Library; and the Wayne Public Library.

PCCHC grants are available to non-profit Passaic County organizations that have planned an art, cultural or history project to take place in Passaic County.

Arts grants operate on the calendar year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31), whereas history grants are based on a fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

Arts and History grant applications are available in May of each year, and grant workshops take place in June at Passaic County Community College campuses in Paterson and Wanaque. Grant applications are due in late July.

For more info contact Susan Balik, Assistant Director, PCCHC, at 973-684-5444 or email sbalik@pccc.edu.
The Friends of the Wayne Public Library will host a book sale on Jan. 31, from 10 am to 5 pm at the library, 461 Valley Rd. For $5, patrons will receive a blue bag, which they can fill with any books, magazines, CDs and DVDs being sold in the room. The Friends are an all-volunteer group which raises funds to help purchase amenities that are not covered in the library's annual budget. Book sales also take place in the Friends Room during normal library hours, except on certain dates and during events. Call 973-694-4272, ext. 5405 for more details or visit www.waynepubliclibrary.org.

The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College has received a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts: Access to Artistic Excellence. This grant will provide increased opportunities for Passaic County senior citizens to enjoy free poetry writing workshops led by professional poets, to submit poems for possible inclusion in a published anthology, and to participate in poetry readings. For info, call Project Director Susan Amsterdam at 973-684-5499 or visit www.cliftonnj.org.

Earth into Art Encore, an exhibit and sale of pottery work by the Potters’ Guild of New Jersey, will open on Jan. 18 and run through February 25 at the Clifton Arts Center, 900 Van Houten Ave. Reception will be held on Jan. 21 from 1 to 4 pm. Admission $3. Gallery hours are Wed. through Sat., 1 to 4 pm. Call 973-472-5499 or visit www.cliftonnj.org.

To help ensure that everyone regardless of age or disability can participate fully in the diverse cultural programs offered, PCCHC asks that organizations listing submissions to passaic county arts news provide accessibility services offered at each venue. Please refer to the chart above as a guide. Please call presenters/venues to confirm event and accessibility information. Services may be available without being noted in this listing.

The PCCHC is funded, in part, by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.