



Contact: **For the ACCVA:**
Elaine Zamansky, 609-449-7166
Karen Martin, 609-449-7126
David Zuba, 609-449-7125

Atlantic City Receives Accolades in Listings for Best Art Projects, Boardwalks, Bicycling, Golf and Boxing Events

(Atlantic City, NJ, July 5, 2013) – Praise keeps rolling in for Atlantic City’s attractions and events – a clear emphasis on what makes it one of the top tourist destinations in the U.S.

The 2013 Public Art Network Year in Review by Americans for the Art – the country’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts – named **Atlantic City’s Artlantic one of the 50 best public art projects in the U.S.** The selections were made by three independent public art experts. Artlantic is ranked at number 20, and is in good company with temporary and permanent art projects in major cities from around the country. A full list of awardees is at http://www.americansforthearts.org/pdf/networks/pan/YIR13_ProjectList_Final.pdf.

Artlantic, consisting of two outdoor art exhibitions, is commissioned by the Atlantic City Alliance (ACA) and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) and is curated by Lance Fung of Fung Collaboratives. It was developed to temporarily turn vacant spaces into public art installations and consists of Atlantic: Wonder, a seven-acre site just off the Boardwalk between MLK Boulevard and Indiana Avenue, and Etude Atlantis, an 8,500 square foot space on the Boardwalk at Atlantic Avenue. Both spaces will provide free entertainment and fitness opportunities daily through September 21. A full schedule of events is at <http://bit.ly/Artlantic-events>.

TheDailyMeal.com rated **Atlantic City number two on its list of 24 Best Boardwalks for Food in the USA**, calling it the “Salt Water Taffy Capital of the World.” (<http://www.thedailymeal.com/25-best-boardwalks-food-us>). Salt water taffy was invented in Atlantic City in 1880 and quickly became one of the city’s most popular treats.

Atlantic City was outranked only by Coney Island, and is followed by Ocean City, NJ and Ocean City, MD, as well as Venice Beach, CA, among others. The boardwalks were chosen based on, “reflection of region, price, and quality of ingredients.”

The article also notes that Atlantic City had the first boardwalk. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Atlantic City should be quite honored, as the article cites that at least 60 boardwalks exist today.

Anyone who’s ever biked on the Atlantic City Boardwalk will appreciate *Bicycling Magazine*’s “Endless Summer” feature in the August 2013 issue that just arrived at the news stands last week. The magazine’s reviewers rated **the Atlantic City Boardwalk as number one in their list of top beachside paths and boardwalks.**

The article cites the diagonal board layout for providing a smoother ride, and notes that Atlantic City has the oldest boardwalk in the world as well as the longest, at 5.5 miles when adding Atlantic City's four-mile stretch with Ventnor's 1.5 miles of boards. The story is not yet posted online at the magazine's Website, www.bicycling.com.

Additional accolades come by way of *Golfweek* magazine's 2013 **"10 Best Golf Courses That You Can Play in New Jersey."** (<http://golfweek.com/news/2013/mar/07/2013-golfweeks-best-courses-state-state/?RANKINGS-GolfweeksBest>) Seven of the ten are in the Atlantic City area, ranked as follows:

- 1 - Atlantic City Country Club in Northfield
- 3 - Twisted Dune in Egg Harbor Township
- 6 - Sand Barrens Golf Club in Swainton
- 7 - Shore Gate Golf Club in Ocean View
- 8 - Scotland Run in Williamstown
- 9 - Bay Course at Stockton Seaview in Galloway
- 10 - Ballamor Golf Club in Egg Harbor Township

Other courses on the list include Ballyowen in Hardyston, Neshanic Valley in Neshanic Station and Architects Golf Course in Lopatcong.

To make the selections for *Golfweek's* list, an experienced team of more than 725 evaluators rated courses on criteria including routing, conditioning, variety and memorability of holes. The number of courses on each state's list varies based on, "the course supply, population and level of play in each state."

Another recent ranking places **Atlantic City third on an international list of "10 Best Cities to Host a Marquee Boxing Event."** Bleacherreport.com stated, "Boardwalk Hall, located right on the famous Atlantic City Boardwalk, is a smaller venue that is filled with a history of some great fights, and iconic fighters... There just seems to be some connection between the clang of slot machines, the roll of the dice and boxing that can't be explained, It's something you just feel." The article continues to acknowledge some of the famous fighters who called Atlantic City home over the years, such as Arturo Gatti and Mike Tyson. (www.bleacherreport.com/articles/1665783-ranking-the-10-bst-cities-to-host-a-marquee-boxing-event)

In selecting the cities for their list, Bleacher Report took into account the quality of the fighters, as well as the atmosphere in the arena, the fans, and the host city. Las Vegas and New York City were ranked one and 2, respectively. The list also included London and Manchester, England, as well as Los Angeles, San Antonio, Mexico City, Carson, CA and Dallas.

Earlier this spring, **Atlantic City's Boardwalk was rated number one on Oyster.com's list of Top U.S. Boardwalks.** (<http://bit.ly/BestBoardwalk>)

"Atlantic City is a compelling destination for many reasons," said John Palmieri, executive director of the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, which oversees the Atlantic City Tourism District. "It's both historic and contemporary, and many visitors have developed an emotional attachment to it, making it a favorite getaway. Year after year, we see ratings that show why we're a top choice for visitors."

In 2012, The Atlantic City Boardwalk was included in several "Top Boardwalk" lists including rankings from foxnews.com, *National Geographic*, *Food and Wine*, weather.com and *Conde Nast Traveler*.

Palmieri notes that the Tourism District's focus on making improvements to the Boardwalk and the addition of new attractions, such as this year's introduction of Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville complex at Resorts, HQ Beach Club at Revel, Haven nightclub at Golden Nugget and additions at Steel Pier and the

Marketplace at Tropicana, provide good reasons for more and more visitors to sample Atlantic City and welcome them back for more frequent and longer stays each time they visit.

#

About the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority (ACCVA)

The Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority, a division of the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), serves as the destination's principal marketing arm, stimulating economic growth through convention, business and leisure tourism development. The Authority oversees the management of the Atlantic City Convention Center and Boardwalk Hall. The Authority is the first destination marketing organization in New Jersey to achieve prestigious Destination Marketing Accreditation by the Destination Marketing Association International. For complete Atlantic City information, visit www.doatlanticcity.com. Also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AtlanticCityNJ.

About the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) www.njcrda.com

The only agency of its kind nationwide- the CRDA has used Atlantic City casino reinvestments as a catalyst for meaningful, positive improvement in the lives of New Jersey residents statewide, investing nearly \$2 billion in more than 400 projects statewide. Under the 2011 Tourism District legislation, CRDA responsibilities have expanded to include Land Use Regulation, Clean and Safe initiatives, attracting and retaining conventions and meetings at the Atlantic City Convention Center and Boardwalk Hall and partnership with the Atlantic City Alliance to market and attract visitors to Atlantic City