

AHRC Suffolk Celebrates the Grand Opening of the People's Arc Performing Arts Center of Northport

September 12, 2024



AHRC Suffolk, a longstanding leader in services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, proudly announces the **Grand Opening of its newest facility, the People's Arc Performing Arts Center of Northport**, located at 51 Scudder Avenue in Northport, NY. The People's Arc Performing Arts Center of Northport is a new theatrical approach to services for people with autism and other developmental disabilities. Using performing arts disciplines (music, theater, dance, digital arts), people supported, community teaching artists, clinicians, and direct support professionals will work collaboratively to guide people in exploring what matters most to them. The center will also provide a wide range of innovative services aimed at enhancing creative expression and fostering community engagement.

The People's Arc Performing Arts Center will feature an array of programs, including the cutting-edge **ARC-TV broadcast studio**, which will serve as a platform for individuals to explore media and communication arts. The facility will also house a **theatre program** and offer **dance and music classes** designed to engage participants of all abilities in creative

pursuits. These programs are part of the organization's broader vision to integrate arts into the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, promoting inclusion and self-expression.

The **Grand Opening** event will take place on **Wednesday, September 25th, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, and will feature a special ribbon-cutting ceremony with **Jennifer Cook**, star of the triple Emmy award-winning Netflix and HBO series, "**Love on the Spectrum US.**" Cook, a prominent advocate for the neurodiverse community, will share her experiences and insights with attendees, offering inspiration and raising awareness about the importance of inclusion.

The result of the collaboration between Cook and the People's Arc is a curriculum which will be used to help each individual achieve the goals they set for their relationship needs.

Jennifer Cook is also a celebrated author, having written nine best-selling books available in eight languages. Her works include her latest publication, **My Friend Julia: A Sesame Street Book About Autism.** Following her address, Jennifer will be available for a book signing session where attendees can engage with her personally and discuss her advocacy for neurodiverse communities.

For more than **70 years**, AHRC Suffolk has been dedicated to providing **person-centered, integrated services** that support children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through dynamic and forward-thinking programs, the organization has enriched the lives of thousands of individuals across Suffolk County, fostering an environment in which everyone can thrive and grow.

"We are incredibly excited to unveil the People's Arc Performing Arts Center, which represents our ongoing efforts to innovate and expand our services," says John McGuigan, CEO of AHRC Suffolk. "This center will serve as a community of opportunity for self-expression, creativity, and growth."

Join us for the Grand Opening of the People's Arc Performing Arts Center on September 25th to celebrate this exciting new chapter for AHRC Suffolk and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, inspiration, and community.

For more information on AHRC of Suffolk and the Grand Opening event, please visit **www.ahrcsuffolk.org**.

About AHRC Suffolk

For over seven decades, AHRC Suffolk has been dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The organization provides person-centered communities where individuals of all ages and abilities enjoy life to its fullest.

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