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**FRONT
LINE...ARTS**

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**PRINTMAKING CENTER OF NEW JERSEY RESTRUCTURE AND MERGER WITH
SOCIALLY ENGAGED ARTS ORGANIZATION, FRONTLINE ARTS**

Branchburg, NJ – This summer, the Printmaking Center of New Jersey (PCNJ) will merge leadership and programs with the socially engaged arts organization, Frontline Arts. The new, merged entity will be known as “Frontline Arts,” and the mission of PCNJ to encourage, support and promote the fine art of printmaking in all its varied forms; to promote the interaction among and between artists and the general public; and to advance the artistic and professional growth of artists at varying levels of experience, will be carried out through newly designed programming under a fresh and broader social arts mission:

We ignite awareness of critical issues and encourage public involvement by supporting socially engaged artists and projects, with a focus on participatory art, to connect and build communities and amplify marginalized voices.

PCNJ sought out a merger with Frontline Arts as a strategy to restructure and re- brand the organization, expanding its reach into a broader artistic community and leveraging the resources of a three-story studio building—a vital resource for local artists. In addition, PCNJ seeks to include a younger and more diverse leadership, grow its membership, and service new and

diverse communities. The newly restructured Frontline Arts' Board of Trustees will include former PCNJ Board members, a long-time PCNJ artist-member, and new Board members brought on by the Frontline Arts' Directors. PCNJ Board members will also sit on the newly forming PCNJ Steering Committee to plan and collaborate on printmaking projects that nestle within the overarching social arts mission of Frontline Arts. The merger and restructuring of PCNJ and Frontline Arts will strengthen leadership and expand programming, revenue sources, and the organization's overall impact.

PCNJ has been the fiscal sponsor of Frontline Arts for the last three years and has worked closely with Frontline Arts' founder, David Keefe, since 2011 in the development of the popular veteran arts program, Combat Paper NJ—now the flagship program of Frontline Arts. Through a connective arts business model, Frontline Arts will support new mobile and participatory socially engaged art projects from all arts disciplines, working to increase awareness of contemporary social issues, encourage public involvement, and connect and build communities throughout the state of New Jersey and across state lines. At the heart of the new connective arts hub—located at the current PCNJ papermaking and print studios at 440 River Road, Branchburg, NJ—the restructured organization seeks to create a buzzing arts community with artist gatherings, community events, an active think tank, a growing residency program, socially-connected printing and arts workshops, professional development workshops, a non-toxic art supply and paper shop, contract print services, studio rental, and more. PCNJ's Roving Press program will be restructured to reach new teen audiences and venues throughout NJ, and new young audiences will be served through our connective social arts projects.

Negotiations between PCNJ and Frontline Arts have been ongoing since late winter 2017, and the merger will be finalized by September 1, 2017. With all of the challenges of small cultural non-profit organizations in today's ever-changing political and economic climate, this merger and restructuring between two closely related arts organizations is in the best interest of both entities and the communities we serve. We are excited and united in merging our missions and efforts to reach an even greater audience to affect social change through the arts.

The Printmaking Center of New Jersey and Frontline Arts would like to acknowledge and credit the legal assistance of this acquisition merger to Pro Bono Partnership, whose mission is to strengthen non-profit organizations and communities by providing free legal services to non-profit organizations in New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. www.probonopartner.org

For more information on Frontline Arts, visit: www.FrontlineArts.org

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