

Recipient of the 2009 Governor's Awards for the Arts

Patron Award – Arthur J. Glatfelter

Arthur J. Glatfelter, a highly respected entrepreneur and business leader and one of York's leading citizens, has contributed directly to arts organizations, championed community action to stabilize and grow the arts and culture and worked tirelessly to strengthen the arts infrastructure in York County. He has supported the York Symphony Orchestra, York County Heritage Trust, the Fire Museum, created the York Youth Symphony Orchestra and most significantly, established the Cultural Alliance of York County.

Glatfelter began Glatfelter Insurance Company in the late 1960's to serve the needs of volunteer fire companies. This company is now one of the twenty largest in the country.

His involvement in the arts began as a volunteer and grew to his serving on the boards of many of the arts non-profits in York, using his entrepreneurial skills, perseverance and passion to ensure that the arts flourish and are recognized as a critical part of the economy in York. In 1999, after five years of research, he and other members of the York business community established a unified agency to develop and promote the arts in the community. This agency, the Cultural Alliance of York, is today a strong, viable and thriving cultural fund, raising more than one million dollars of operating and promotional support for arts organizations in York. It is a powerful example of Glatfelter's vision of the arts as central in sustaining the social and economic well-being of the York community.

Glatfelter has set an outstanding and very visible example as an art patron in York. He created a culture of service among his staff at Glatfelter Insurance Group and has testified before Congress on behalf of the arts. He continues to fund The Cultural Alliance, the York County Heritage Trust and the York Symphony Orchestra. His presence at a multitude of York performing, presenting and planning sessions or events, with his wife Susan, is visible evidence of his deep commitment to the arts. Glatfelter's vision and advocacy has insured that York, today, is able to sustain a diverse, healthy and vibrant arts and cultural community for all citizens, young and old.