



Montclair Film Announces The Launch of The Evelyn McGee Colbert Visionary Award and The Evelyn McGee Colbert Visionary Fund

June 12, 2026, MONTCLAIR, NJ – Montclair Film, New Jersey’s leading film non-profit, today announced the launch of The Evelyn McGee Colbert Visionary Award & The Evelyn McGee Colbert Visionary Fund, honoring Evelyn Colbert’s commitment to Montclair Film, the arts, and the legacy of her foundational, visionary leadership.

The Evelyn McGee Colbert Visionary Award

On June 10, Montclair Film hosted its inaugural Visionary Tribute at Joe’s Pub in New York City, honoring Evelyn Colbert and celebrating her extraordinary leadership and the lasting impact she has made on Montclair Film. Friends, supporters, and special guests gathered for an unforgettable evening of music, storytelling, and celebration. At the ceremony, Evelyn was honored with the first Evelyn McGee Colbert Visionary Award, which has been established to recognize individuals whose creativity, innovation, leadership, and dedication embody the transformative power of cinematic storytelling.

The Evelyn McGee Colbert Visionary Fund

In support of this new award and Tribute event, The Evelyn McGee Visionary Fund will provide Montclair Film with the financial resources necessary to build programs that highlight and celebrate visionary leaders in our industry while building community, conversation, and connection through the art of storytelling. Additionally, this fund will position Montclair Film, and our region, as a leading destination for cinema artists.

“Stephen and I established this Visionary Fund to create a financial reserve that will provide annual support to bring filmmakers and industry leaders to Montclair so that they can share their work, stories, and experience with our community” said Evelyn McGee Colbert. “It is our goal to ensure that Montclair Film will continue to grow as a leading destination for cinema artists”

While Evelyn Colbert has stepped down as President of the Board of Trustees, she will remain a vital part of the future of Montclair Film in her new role as President Emeritus and a member of the board’s Executive Committee.

“Montclair Film is far more than a film festival. Our non-profit is a vibrant year-round organization, featuring robust educational programming, two flourishing cinemas, and of course, the thriving ten-day film festival that started it all,” said Montclair Film Board of Trustees President Mary Anne Vaughn. “We have built a cultural cornerstone for our community and for the film industry. Our Visionary initiatives will

allow us to expand our connection with audiences, nurture more talent and strengthen communities while helping to shape the future of film”

“Evie Colbert’s visionary leadership has defined the culture of our organization,” said Montclair Film Executive Director & Co-Head Tricia Haggerty Wenz. “She has led with a trust in and support for our team that has allowed us to grow beyond even our most optimistic dreams. But perhaps her greatest gift to Montclair Film is the generosity of spirit she has brought to each and every day. We are committed to making sure that her spirit endures.”

To contribute in support of the Evelyn McColbert Visionary Fund the fund or learn more, visit the [Montclair Film Visionary Fund Donation Link](#)

Press Note: For photos please visit [Montclair Film Visionary Tribute Photos](#)

ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM

Montclair Film, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, seeks to transform lives and communities through the power of film and filmmaking. Montclair Film is home to the Montclair Film Festival, multi-screen cinemas The Clairidge and The Bellevue, and numerous community events and educational programs throughout the year. The 15th Annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from October 16-25, 2026. All programs are made possible with funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Montclair Film provides unique and meaningful ways to engage with diverse, creative, and sophisticated audiences and seeks sponsors for its signature film festival and year-round film, education, and community programs that attract more than 100,000 annual attendees and generate more than 900 million media impressions yearly. For more information about Montclair Film, visit www.MontclairFilm.org

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