

# June Brings Art & Leisure Month to Long Beach Island

By Lori Pepenella



**L**ong Beach Island has long been associated with an innovative art scene that includes galleries as well as non profit art associations, live performances and classes. Long Beach Island Region Destination Marketing Organization has christened June **Art and Leisure Month** with a calendar filled with family festivals, art shows and programs. As summer begins, the region will come alive with memorable films and a vibrant art market, thanks to two world class festivals drawing thousands of visitors and bringing inspiration in every medium to audiences from across the globe. During the first weekend of June, the **Lighthouse International Film Festival** promises to be a gathering place for filmmakers, critics and

those who love them to view award winning independent films. As a tribute to Long Beach Island's long history as a premier surfing destination, all weekend there will be screenings of award winning surfing movies. For the youngest film enthusiasts, there will be free children's films. The weekend will also include panel discussions on environmental and other important issues, Q & A with producers and directors, and other opportunities to interact with film industry professionals. **The Lighthouse International Film Festival** screens hundreds of submissions from filmmakers around the world to bring to Long Beach Island documentaries, feature films, and shorts that not only entertain, but also enthrall and educate the audience. With almost 2,000 attendees last summer, this film festival will once again offer dozens of films as well as director and producer talk backs, after parties and meet and greets; allowing insight to the film making process like no other festival can offer. The success of the film festival has led to the creation of the Lighthouse Film Society that holds screenings, discussions and events all year long in various venues in LBI. The Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center will once again serve as headquarters for the festival offering weekend, daily or movie passes for sale. For information go to [visitLBIregion.com](http://visitLBIregion.com) or [lighthousefilmfestival.org](http://lighthousefilmfestival.org) for details, schedules and ticket information.

The following weekend proves to be a true vision, as Long Beach Island becomes the perfect canvas for the highly acclaimed **Jersey Shore Fine Art Festival**, which brings the only national art show to the Jersey Shore this summer. Featuring world class artists from throughout the United States, patrons have the opportunity to not only view the art but meet the artist on site. Every medium is represented from the most delicate of jewelry to the boldest sculpture, color sharp

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photography, fresh watercolors and rich oil paintings. Festival goers will also find truly unique interpretations in glass, metal and stone. This free, pet friendly event has been ranked a top 47th show in the nation. It is located at the gateway of Long Beach Island at Ethel Jacobson Field in Ship Bottom with plenty of free parking. Under the guidance of top art show producer Paragon Art Events, the **Jersey Shore Fine Art Festival** has grown in scope and reputation catapulting Long Beach Island to be included as one of

America's most prestigious locations for fine art. Along with sister shows held in Cape Cod, MA and Westhampton, NY, Long Beach Island draws thousands from throughout the East Coast to seek the finer things in life while viewing unique works of art in an exceptional atmosphere.



Photo Courtesy of the Southern OC Chamber of Commerce

Festival artist  
Linda McAdams



Photo Courtesy of the Southern OC Chamber of Commerce

Festival artist  
Adrian Johannes

Also on the calendar for Art & Leisure Month is Tuckerton Seaport's 19th **Annual Baymen's Seafood and Music Festival** held on June 18 from 11 am to 4 pm featuring delicious Jersey fresh seafood such as clams, crabs, scallops and shrimp, while learning about life on the bay and enjoying regional music. This event is so popular that it has been voted a "Top 10 NJ Outdoor Festival" for the past two years. For information contact the Tuckerton Seaport at **609 296 8368**.

Catch a live performance of the Tony Award Winning musical **Rent**, at the SurfFlight Theatre located on Engleside and Beach Avenues starring American Idol star Justin Guarini. This show runs matinee and evening performances through June 19. For tickets visit:

**[surflight.org](http://surflight.org)**.

Rounding out the month the Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts and Sciences is planning an **LBI Artist Open Studio Tour**, for more information visit **[LBIF.org](http://LBIF.org)**. The **Third Annual Viking Village's Jazzy Scallop Festival** will be held on June 25. This succulent event will feature, fresh off the boat Barnegat Bay, scallops served up by popular area restaurants for taste testing in historic Viking Village in Barnegat Light. Add in some cool sounds of a Jazz trio, it makes for a memorable close to a full month of artfully executed events.

All ticket and scheduling information can be obtained by contacting the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce at **609 494 7211**, 265 W 9th St, Ship Bottom, NJ or going online to **[visitLBIfregion.com](http://visitLBIfregion.com)**.