

Passage Theatre's 2024 Gala

April 6, 2024 | 6:00pm

Trenton Country Club

Maria Richardson — Patron of the Arts Excellence Award

Passage is proud to honor **Maria Richardson**. Maria is a good friend to the theater, to the arts community in Trenton, and to Trenton youth and families. For over three decades of service, Maria has been a tireless advocate in municipal government, the private sector, and academia.

The breadth of Maria's knowledge is a testament to both her spirit and curiosity. She blends a solid grounding in engineering and agriculture with experience in legal practice. As an attorney, her proficiency lies in international law, business and international relations, and commercial arbitration.

Maria holds degrees in Forestry and Sustainable Development, International Public Law, Business, Commercial Arbitration, Epidemiology and Public Health and a Ph.D. in Education.

Maria is the City of Trenton Director of Recreation, Natural Resources and Culture and the Acting Director of Health and Human Services. Maria is a vital advocate for the arts in our great city. She is a true friend of Passage and has overseen vital improvements to the Playhouse, including installation of a state-of-the-art HVAC system that allows the community safe, comfortable, year-round access to the facilities, and much-needed improvements to the restrooms and public spaces. Passage's patron experience owes a great deal to Maria and we salute her for this and so much else.

Maria is married to Michael Richardson, a professional musician. They are the proud parents of two sons and a daughter; they have three granddaughters.