



Community Commitment

Updated October 2025

At Arts for Learning WNY, we are a community of staff, board, Teaching Artists, and volunteers working in a spirit of inquiry so that, individually and collectively, we may achieve our full potential. Our community extends to the many youths, families, educators, artists, and others who remain actively engaged in advancing our mission and values to inspire and expand learning through the arts.

Located in the territory of the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations, we at Arts for Learning have an obligation to recognize all who, through history or identity, have been marginalized or oppressed, made invisible or silenced. We recognize that our own identities are many and varied, forged by culture, circumstance, and choice. Some of us inhabit multiple identities where histories of exclusion or injustice intersect.

We are here to listen, learn, teach, change, and grow. Together, we commit ourselves to cultivating a community that respects difference and promotes a sense of inclusion and belonging. Together, we will work to sustain and expand the diversity of our community and to make equity for all members of our diverse community a measure of our success.

Our commitment to the community is reflected in how we design our programs, support our educators, and honor the diverse voices and experiences of the people we serve. We invest in ongoing professional learning for our staff, board, and Teaching Artists to ensure our practices remain current and grounded in best-in-class approaches to arts-integrated education. These opportunities help us continue to learn, reflect, and grow together as a creative community. Our programs integrate social and emotional learning (SEL) into lesson plans, supporting the development of empathy, self-awareness, and collaboration, skills that help students thrive both in and beyond the classroom. We create and distribute at no cost, Arts-Integration Kits that reflect and celebrate the rich diversity of the communities we serve. These materials are designed to foster curiosity, inclusion, and cultural awareness among students and educators alike. We also maintain a Cultural Representation and Appropriation Policy to ensure that all our programs respectfully and accurately represent the cultures and communities that inspire them. This helps us create learning experiences that are authentic, responsible, and deeply connected to our shared humanity.

Through these efforts, Arts for Learning WNY strives to be a trusted community partner—one that listens, learns, and uses the power of the arts to inspire understanding, creativity, and belonging across Western New York.

