

Annual Impact Report

2023-2024



Arts for Learning WNY's mission is to inspire, expand learning, and strengthen our community through engagement with the arts.

artsforlearningwny.org



Dear Supporters and Friends,

I am thrilled to share with you the exciting developments at Arts for Learning WNY, as we embark on a transformative journey guided by our renewed strategic plan. **At the heart of our mission is the belief that the arts have the power to inspire, expand learning, and strengthen our community.** Through careful discussion with key stakeholders, we have established five pillars to guide the organization over the next three years:

THE ARTS AS AN ACADEMIC RESOURCE

Central to our strategic plan is our commitment to establishing Arts for Learning as a leader in arts-integrated classroom instruction. We are leveraging data collection and rigorous evaluation to demonstrate how arts integration supports academic learning and meets the needs of educators throughout Western New York. This initiative not only enhances student engagement but also enriches the educational experience for all learners.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, ACCESS, AND BELONGING

We recognize how imperative it is to advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Belonging (DEIAB) within our organization and the communities we serve. Through the transformative power of the arts, we are committed to addressing racial justice and social equity, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of background, have equitable access to our programs and opportunities.

LEVERAGING BRAND IDENTITY TO INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

To expand our reach and deepen our impact across the eight counties of Western New York, we are implementing strategic communication strategies that leverage our strong brand identity. By increasing visibility both digitally and within local communities, we are fostering greater awareness and engagement with our mission and programs.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL GROWTH

One of the foundational pillars of our strategic plan is sustainable financial growth. Through the support of generous supporters like you, we are enhancing our capacity to develop and sustain vital programs and services. By diversifying our funding streams and strengthening our financial discipline, we are laying a robust foundation for future growth and impact.

EXPANSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

With over six decades of service, Arts for Learning continues to expand its organizational capacity to meet the evolving needs of our community. By strengthening our infrastructure and partnerships, we are better positioned to serve more students and provide meaningful arts experiences that foster creativity and learning.

Your ongoing support is integral to our success. **Together, we can continue to inspire, educate, and empower our community through the arts.** Thank you for joining us on this incredible journey towards a brighter future.

Warm regards,

Michael Thomas

Michael Thomas
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PRESIDENT

Funding at a Glance

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2022-2023		2023-2024	
Contributions	\$43,348	5%	\$33,537	4%
Government Grants	\$155,023	18%	\$393,130	53%
Foundation Grants	\$282,357	32%	\$293,392	39%
Program Income	\$320,177	36%	\$21,195	3%
Miscellaneous Income	\$8,517	1%	\$4,147	1%
Transfer of Net Assets	\$75,000	8%		
Total	\$884,422	100%	\$745,401	100%
EXPENSES	2022-2023		2023-2024	
Programs and Services	\$738,345	84%	\$581,847	85%
Management	\$125,252	14%	\$85,930	13%
Fundraising	\$16,310	2%	\$12,330	2%
Total	\$879,907	100%	\$660,997	100%
Change in Assets	\$4,515		\$60,789	

Impact by the Numbers

17,560 STUDENTS received hands-on access to arts integrated programming, with many students receiving more than one session

3,353 COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE ENTERTAINED & EDUCATED THROUGH OUR CREATIVE FAMILY PUBLIC PROGRAMMING SERIES

635 WORKSHOPS, PERFORMANCES, AND RESIDENCIES PRESENTED BY OUR TEACHING ARTISTS

17 PERFORMING ARTISTS
13 TEACHING ARTISTS
12 CULTURAL PARTNERS

developed and delivered various arts integrated learning experiences in all subject areas

70 SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, SUMMER CAMPS, AND COMMUNITY SITES served in Western New York

THE ARTS PARTNERS FOR LEARNING INITIATIVE COLLABORATED WITH 12 ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WESTERN NEW YORK, offering 15 unique educational programs for 1,231 students

88% OF PROGRAMMING WAS FREE TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

10 TEEN APPRENTICES WERE HIRED THROUGH ARTWORKS and trained under Teaching Artists to learn art forms while gaining basic job and college readiness skills

6 SCHOOLS IN 3 DIFFERENT DISTRICTS AND 2 DIFFERENT COUNTIES participated in the Whole School Partnership Program, with over 1,200 students and 15 teachers served

Commitment to Racial Equity

At Arts for Learning WNY, we are steadfast in our commitment to racial equity and social justice. We continuously educate and train every member of our organization on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Belonging (DEIAB) topics, ensuring that these principles guide our actions and decisions at all levels.

Our cultural appropriation policy stands as a testament to our dedication to respecting and honoring diverse cultures and communities for both the students we work with and the artistic disciplines presented.

Furthermore, as part of our new strategic plan, we are actively developing a program development rubric that incorporates DEIAB principles. This rubric will serve as a framework to ensure that all our programs are inclusive, equitable, and accessible to everyone we serve.

Through these initiatives, we strive to create an environment where diversity is celebrated, equity is upheld, and all individuals feel a sense of belonging.

Together with our community partners and supporters, we are committed to fostering a more just and inclusive society through the transformative power of the arts.





Our Board and Staff

Just as essential to our work is our committed Board of Directors and staff who dedicate their time and heart in service to our mission and champion our cause.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Meg Gonsalves
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COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

Maia Martinez
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Our Teaching Artists

Our current roster of Teaching Artists are the educators who inspire and empower students across WNY through innovative, creative, and inclusive arts integrated programs.

VISUAL ART

Cassandra Argeros

Emma Brittain

Kelly Betschen

Kristin Brandt

Laura Chenault

THEATER

Lisette DeJesus

Melissa Kate Miller

DANCE

B.flo Girls

Charis Humphrey

Cynthia Vogel

MUSIC

Ringo Brill

LITERARY ART

Jess Pavia

PERFORMANCE

Airigami

**Andy Parker-
Weather Machine**

Arabiqua

Benjamin Berry

Cindy Hanna

Devi Bollywood Dance

Diaspora Drumming

Doug Rougeux

Doug Yeomans

**Judd Sunshine of
the Hill Brothers**

Janice Spagnola

Kevin McCarthy

Mohamed Diaby

PUSH Physical Theatre

Taylor Made Jazz

Ted Baumhauer

The Wondermakers

Enjoy this workshop introduction presented by
**NATIONALLY CREDENTIALLED MASTER
TEACHING ARTIST MELISSA KATE MILLER**



Our Partners

Collaboration is part of our foundation. We connect artists to our partner organizations to ensure we can seamlessly integrate the arts into every classroom and community.

ARTS PARTNERS FOR LEARNING PARTNERS

Arts Services Initiative, Inc.
Buffalo AKG Art Museum
Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
Buffalo String Works
Burchfield Penney Art Center
Chautauqua Institution
Explore Buffalo
Frank Lloyd Wright Martin House
Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
Irish Classical Theatre Company
Just Buffalo Literary Center
Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor
Roycroft Campus
Shakespeare in Delaware Park
Shea's Performing Arts Center
Stitch Buffalo
Theatre of Youth
Tift Nature Preserve
VR Buffalo
Western New York Book Arts Center

SCHOOL PARTNERS

Allendale Elementary School
Big Tree Elementary School
BPS #156 Frederick Law Olmsted High School
BPS #18 Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School of Academic Excellence
BPS #192 Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts
BPS #197 Math Science Technology Preparatory School
BPS #3 D'Youville Porter Campus School
BPS #301 Burgard High School
BPS #31 Harriet Ross Tubman School
BPS #45 International School

BPS #48 Martin Luther King Cultural Institute
BPS #53 Community School
BPS #59 Dr. Charles Drew Science Magnet
BPS #64 Frederick Law Olmsted
BPS #65 Roosevelt Elementary
BPS #76 Herman Badillo
BPS #81
BPS #95 Waterfront Elementary School
BPS #97 Harvey Austin School
BPS #99 Stanley M. Makowski Early Childhood Center
BPS# 415 Middle Early College High School
Buffalo Commons Charter School
Buffalo Public School District
Buffalo United Charter School
Cattaraugus - Little Valley High School
Cayuga Heights Elementary
Cleveland Hill Elementary
Ellicottville Central MS/HS
Elmwood Village Charter School - Hertel
Global Concepts Charter School
Holland Central School District
Kendall Elementary School
Lafayette High School
Letchworth Central School District
Maple East Elementary School
Northwood Elementary School
Oak Orchard Elementary School
Perry Jr/Sr. High School
REACH Academy Middle School
St. Joseph University School
Tapestry Charter School
Ten Broeck Academy
The Summit Center
Warsaw Middle High School
Westminster Community Charter School
Winchester Potters Elementary School

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Alden Ewell Library
Alice, Ever After Books
Arcade Free Library
BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc
Boys and Girls Club Lakeshore (Eden)
Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County
Broadway Market
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Buffalo Museum of Science
Burning Books
Byron-Bergen Public Library
Canalside
Cassadaga Branch Library
Castellani Art Museum
Clarence Public Library
Community Free Library
Cordelia Greene Library
Corfu Free Library
Cuba Circulating Library
East Clinton Branch Library
Elaine M. Panty Branch Library
Ellicottville Memorial Library
Erie 1 BOCES
Erie County Youth Detention Center
Family Help Center
Gateway-Longview
Kenan Arts Center
Lancaster Public Library
Leroy Cole Library
Minerva Free Library
Newstead Public Library
Niagara Falls Public Library
North Park Branch Library
Northwest Buffalo Community Center

People Inc.
Perry Public Library
Police Athletic League
Prospect Park
Salamanca Public Library
Sanborn Public Library
Steven's Memorial Public Library
The Belle Center
West Side Community Services
Yates Community Library
YWCA



Our Supporters

Our supporters make it possible to serve as a reliable connector between artists and organizations; enabling Arts for Learning to provide over 88% of our high-quality arts integrated programming free of charge to schools, libraries, and community centers across all eight counties of Western New York.

UP TO \$249

Various Anonymous Donors
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John & Anita Ballow
Rosemarie Banks
Brendan & Britney Barker
Devon Battles
Sylvia Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. James & Patricia Boje
Robert & Elizabeth Booth
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Chelsea Davis
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\$250-499

Constance Campanaro & David Kraus
Leanne Deshaies
Mr. Matthew Douglas
Cynthia Hanna
Daniel & Barbara Hart
Jessica Howe
Heather Kimmins
Sebastian Margaglio
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Plizga
Upstate Farms

\$500-999

Bruce & Susan Baird
Laura Douglas
Mr. Jeffrey Douglas
James Howe
Zachary Jenkins
Sanford & Margery Nobel
Michael Thomas

\$1,000-4,999

Joseph Golombek, Jr., Buffalo Common Council
Michael Leslie
Spaulding Family Foundation
West Herr Auto Group

\$5,000-9,999

Bryan Bollman, Buffalo Common Council
Children's Foundation of Erie County
Conable Family Foundation
James H. Cummings Foundation
Joel P. Feroletto, Buffalo Common Council
Humanities New York

Josephine Goodyear Foundation
NexTier Bank
Mitch Nowakowski, Buffalo Common Council
Rich Family Foundation
Young Audiences National

\$10,000-24,999

The 716 Foundation
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
The Cullen Foundation of Western New York
Erie County Department of Environment & Planning
David A. Rivera, Buffalo Common Council
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

\$25,000+

Erie County Department of Mental Health
Erie County Department of Youth Services
Fund for the Arts
The Garman Family Foundation
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds for Community Assets
New York State Council on the Arts
ARTIST PALETTE MEMBERS
Jessica Basil
Karen Camp
Stephen & Kirsten Craft-Rabent
Arlow Linton, Esq.
Lynette & Mike Rabent
Nyeema Quinniey
Amy Wlosinski
Pamela White

IN HONOR OF

Neil Aquino in honor of Zach Jenkins
John & Anita Ballow in honor of Alexandra Matthews
Michael & Carol Daniels in honor of their children and grandchildren
Dr. Bonita R. Durand in honor of Nyeema Quinniey
Kathryn Gagliano in honor of Amy Wlosinski
Tim Marren in honor of Mike Leslie
Maureen Milane in honor of Amelia Schrader and Laura Douglas
Kenneth & Verlaine D. Quinniey in honor of Robin Flowers Quinniey
Mary Anne Rokitka in honor of Judy Rokitka
MK G Roland in honor of Amelia Schrader
Spaulding Family Foundation in honor of Amelia Schrader
Denise & Kevin Towey in honor of Allison Rabent

IN MEMORY OF

Patricia Gaedeke in memory of Mary Kemp Gaedeke
Molly Mullett Gold in memory of James Gold
Mary Jean & Larry Jakubowski in memory of Henry & Jean Ruml
Hannah Raiken-Schulman in memory of Gilda & Jerry Raiken
Charles & Heidi Salva in memory of John & Pam Voss

Programs Spotlight



The Master Teaching Artist Training Program is a special designation from Arts for Learning WNY to artists across the region to recognize their dedication to continued education and expertise in both traditional educational principles and their art form. Participants in the 2024 Master Teaching Artist Training Program completed over 15 hours of specialized professional learning.



Young Generations youth had the opportunity to learn and practice several art forms. Of note is Teaching Artist Kelly Betschen, who taught jewelry making techniques, guiding the youth in creating sculptural metal wire pieces. Participants also had an opportunity to explore art forms that ranged from mural painting to hip-hop dancing.



During the 2024 Spring Session, ArtWorks hired 10 students who were led by Master Teaching Artist Kristin Brandt. They worked for 12 weeks to prepare a showcase held at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. The apprentices learned painting and drawing techniques, made props, prepared an acted performance, and practiced public speaking. Professional development days provided the apprentices with financial literacy, knowledge of employee rights, and college financial aid. The semester included a field trip to the Buffalo AKG Art Museum and two college campus visits. The apprentices also met professional artists who dedicate their lives to bettering the Buffalo community.



What People Are Saying

“The Whole School Partnership Program has allowed our students and teachers an opportunity to learn directly from professional artists about their craft and we have benefited tremendously from this opportunity. It has been a true pleasure working with Allison Rabent and Amelia Schrader for the last two years. Their commitment to the arts and particularly providing exposure to arts education to students and teachers is unwavering. They have been organized, diligent, and easy to work with, and I wish we had the ability to fund the program fully; however, as previously stated current budgetary restraints have made that not possible. Please consider the Whole School Partnership Program for potential funding. We know this program is beneficial for students. These enrichment opportunities are aligned with New York State English/Language Arts standards and provide students and teachers with the opportunity to work directly with professionals within the field, bringing the curriculum to life in a different way from what they have experienced before leaving a lasting impact.”

Rebecca Belkota SECONDARY PRINCIPAL, PERRY JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

“Working with Arts for Learning has been amazing, and it has helped our youth find a creative outlet. We’ve had youth that have ended up taking their skills further with the help of artists from Arts for Learning. One youth was even asked to work with a Teaching Artist on a project out in the community. We have always had a great experience working with their roster of amazing, talented, and kind Teaching Artists.”

Gabriella Jamieson FAMILY HELP CENTER YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

“We hosted several Arts for Learning programs here at the Cuba Library. Our patrons had the opportunity to learn and see a traveling museum of artifacts from the Erie Canal, as well as hear music about the Canal. Our patrons greatly enjoyed this valuable opportunity. As a small rural library, our community does not often have access to such programs. This type of service is so vital to providing access to history and art programming for rural communities such as ours.”

Tina Dalton LIBRARY DIRECTOR, CUBA CIRCULATING LIBRARY

“The Salamanca Public Library serves a community of around 5,000. In recent years, we have been faced with increasing budget cuts which make it difficult for us to provide our patrons with as many programs as we would like. We were very grateful to have a partnership with Arts for Learning to provide programs like Traveling Erie Canal to come to our library and give our community an opportunity to participate in the great workshops.”

Jennifer Stickles MANAGER, SALAMANCA PUBLIC LIBRARY

“This program has given me the chance to explore and expand my artistic expression. It’s allowed me to be more confident in myself.”

“My favorite part was the uniqueness of the program. I expected to sit in a board room and just paint. Instead I got to meet and work with other artists both my age and older.”

“Collaborating with the other ArtWorks members and brainstorming our ideas together really showed me how to work with others.”

“The instruction that was gained through ArtWorks from the Teaching Artist was outstanding. I was able to learn different things and focus on my own personal talent.”

“ArtWorks has taught me creative thinking, critical thinking, and communication skills which will help me a lot in the future. It’s honestly been such an educational experience.”

ArtWorks Participants





1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203
artsforlearningwny.org
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Education ▶ For over 60 years, we have been the leading arts education organization in Western New York seeking innovative, equitable, and inclusive ways to infuse arts into learning.

Inspiration ▶ We are committed to empowering local artists to teach and inspire young people and educators through new and meaningful creative arts experiences.

Connection ▶ By serving as a reliable connector between artists and organizations and providing high-quality education, we seamlessly fill a need to integrate arts into the classroom.

▶ info@artsforlearningwny.org
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▶ (716) 881-0917



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning