

ARTS

FOR LEARNING WNY

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

artsforlearningwny.org

ARTS FOR LEARNING WNY IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ARTS EDUCATION ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO INSPIRE, EXPAND LEARNING, AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS. FOR 60 YEARS, WE'VE BEEN THE LEADING ARTS EDUCATION ORGANIZATION IN WESTERN NEW YORK SEEKING INNOVATIVE, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE WAYS TO INFUSE THE ARTS INTO LEARNING ACROSS ALL SUBJECT AREAS FOR GRADES K-12.



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network

Creative Connections

Schools face many challenges caused by the narrowing of the curriculum. This leaves thousands of students without exposure to arts and without the benefits of creative learning. We are the conduit between Teaching Artists and children in schools, helping create a love of learning, and creative and problem-solving skills. Research shows that all children – and particularly children at risk of academic failure – are more likely to thrive in schools that make time for the arts and utilize arts integration, the practice of using the arts to teach classroom subjects.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1. GET INSPIRED!** Browse our exciting programs and Teaching Artists at artsforlearningwny.org. We are here to be your reliable connector to talented arts educators to seamlessly integrate arts into your classroom.
- 2. PLAN!** Talk to your educators, parents, and community centers to start planning your creative learning opportunity. You can choose from workshops, assemblies, and/or long-term residency programs. Not sure what you want? Give us a call and we can talk you through the different options.
- 3. BOOK IT!** Call or email us at 716-881-0917 or info@artsforlearningwny.org to schedule your program.

“Our school has been affiliated with Arts for Learning for many years and we thank them for offering such wonderful programming for our students. We now schedule specific Arts-in-Education residencies connected to ELA, Science, Social Studies, and Math in grades UPK to 12.”

Susan Mikula ARTS-IN-ED COORDINATOR, HOLLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL



Arts Are Education

We've developed and delivered education programs in all artistic disciplines to more than 3 million children and families in the region.

The professional Teaching Artists on our roster engage young people in creative learning opportunities in all eight counties of Western New York, including Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua.

NATIONAL AFFILIATION

We are an affiliate of Young Audiences National, the nation's leading arts-in-education organization, with 29 affiliates in 26 states, who work collaboratively to advance arts in education through advocacy, communications, fundraising, program development, professional learning, and other support. Arts for Learning WNY is one of the oldest affiliate offices in the network. Founded in 1962 by Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra flute & piccolo musician Laurence Trott, we have provided hands-on learning experiences for grades K-12 for more than 60 years.



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning



“Because of our work with Young Audiences, we have seen improved behavior, stronger attendance rates, increased student engagement, higher levels of creativity, improvements in literacy skills, higher test scores in mathematics, as well as increased self-confidence in public speaking and performing.”

Kate Gustina ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, BPS 95 WATERFRONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Our Impact

We provide critical arts integrated learning, an essential key in the development of a young person. Some of the benefits from participating in arts integrated programming includes boosted self-confidence, improved academic performances, increased communication and collaboration, and a healthier and more inspiring society for everyone.

30,621 STUDENTS
RECEIVED HANDS-ON ACCESS TO
ARTS INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

 **75 UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS**
with schools, libraries, summer camps, and community-based organizations

25 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
presented for educators, artists, and cultural partners

 **85% OF PROGRAMMING IS FREE TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

60 TEACHING ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PARTNERS
developed and delivered arts integrated learning experiences in all subject areas

5,502 FAMILIES
ENTERTAINED & EDUCATED
THROUGH OUR CREATIVE FAMILY
PUBLIC PROGRAMMING SERIES

**940 WORKSHOPS,
PERFORMANCES, AND
RESIDENCIES OFFERED**



"I am so grateful for the partnership we have with Arts for Learning WNY. Our patrons have had so much fun and learned so much through the programs they have sent to our library. This relationship has been invaluable to the library, and we hope to be able to work with them for years to come!"

Erin Robinson LIBRARY DIRECTOR, ARCADE FREE LIBRARY



Core Values: Racial Equity & Social Justice

The arts are a powerful tool to teach empathy, culturally responsive attitudes, critical thinking, and to help people better understand the world around them. We are committed to continue using the arts to combat racism, empower our youth, and advocate for systemic change in our community. We may be operating under a new name, but our commitment to this work will not waver.

Racial Equity and Social Justice are core values of Arts for Learning WNY, and infusing Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Innovation (JEDI) into all aspects of the organization is one of the five key priorities of the organization listed in our Strategic Plan.

The board and staff have engaged in training sessions presented by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

These training sessions focused on the history of racial inequities and structural racism in our society and how to use the Racial Equity Impact Analysis (REIA) Tools from Race Matters Institute, to work toward a more equitable organization.

Measurable actions Arts for Learning has implemented include:

- ▶ Using the REIA Tools, to evaluate both board and staff policies and procedures.
- ▶ Partnering with a qualified evaluation consultant to implement a comprehensive evaluation of program content, including how effective a program is at meeting community needs and interests, changes in knowledge, and changes in attitude.
- ▶ Adopting a Cultural Representation and Appropriation Policy to demonstrate our commitment to maintaining Teaching Artists with deep connections to their artforms, programs that provide accurate historical and cultural context, and internal processes that continually review and communicate the accuracy and authenticity of language, images, and programming.

"I truly commend the Arts for Learning team. As a race educator and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEI&B) practitioner, it is imperative to partner with organizations who have moved past performative "D&I," and are ready to do the real work of building inclusion. I saw that with the Arts for Learning staff and Teaching Artists."

Gigi Gilliard FOUNDER/CEO OF GIGI GILLIARD DEVELOPMENT



Teaching Artists

Arts for Learning seeks Teaching Artists from all eight counties of Western New York that represent the beautifully diverse community we serve. We are committed to empowering local artists to teach and inspire young people and educators through new and meaningful creative arts experiences. Our roster of Teaching Artists engage youth in music, dance, theater, media, visual and literary arts – all areas that have historically been removed from school curriculum due to budgetary constraints. These arts integrated programs cultivate children’s imaginations to help develop physical, emotional, and academic capabilities for a foundation of lifelong success.

JOIN OUR ROSTER

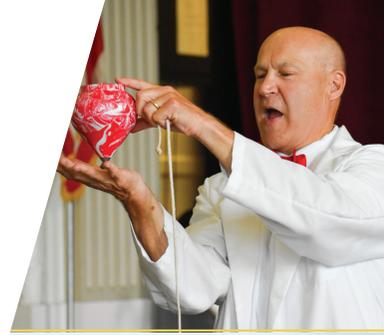
Qualities we look for:

- Exceptional skills as a practicing artist
- Strong experience teaching children in schools or other settings (examples: community venues, libraries, after school)
- Commitment to racial equity, social justice, and inclusion
- Experience connecting art to other academic content or a willingness to learn the skills of arts integration
- Ability to deliver dynamic and engaging programs – virtually and in-person
- A passion for using the arts to engage with children and communities

Benefits of joining our roster:

- Access to professional development sessions from nationally accredited facilitators that are exclusive to our roster and partners
- Flexible scheduling during school and after school hours
- Administrative and marketing support to schedule and advertise your programs in school districts across WNY
- Networking opportunities with other teaching artists regionally and nationally through the Young Audiences Network

► Visit www.artsforlearningwny.org/become-a-teaching-artist to view the application and find out more!



Arts Integrated Programs

Arts for Learning's programming is distinct because it's based on 60+ years of adaptation and innovation, and supports core curriculum subjects through the arts.

Additionally, the organization is an affiliate of the Young Audiences National Network. As a result of our affiliation with the Young Audiences National Network, Arts for Learning is at the forefront of arts education in Western New York: pursuing equitable access to the arts through systems change efforts, sharing learned expertise with local educators and artists, and supporting programs and resources for the communities most in need.

Arts for Learning's programs increase opportunities for youth to engage in significant arts learning. The arts are proven to increase educational attainment for students because they serve a wide range of learning skills. Arts integrated learning supports 21st Century skill development, helping youth learn critical thinking, team building, resourcefulness, resilience, flexibility, communication, interchange, and articulation.

All outcomes lead to an increased likelihood of graduation, opportunities for higher learning, and successful professional life.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Assembly Performances ▶ These highly participatory programs are one-time events that introduce students to an art form, while supporting a variety of core curricula.

Workshops ▶ Students have the opportunity to work closely with a professional artist in an interactive, hands-on environment.

Residencies ▶ These series of three or more days with an artist allow for high level, in-depth work while the content is often customized based on the specific needs of the students.

OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



An immersive art learning experience where teen apprentices ages 14-18 years old get paid to create, learn workforce skills, and receive early college preparation.



A restorative justice-arts program that connects teenagers to arts education, workforce development, and community initiatives through a collaboration with Erie County Department of Probation.



A collaborative initiative facilitated by Arts for Learning WNY. This collaborative consists of cultural partners throughout Western New York providing arts integrated educational programs to both students and classroom teachers.

The Power of the Arts

- 86%** of youth and children participants gain increased confidence in their ability to create and engage in the arts
- 83%** of educators feel more supported in their classroom
- 84%** of participants feel more invested in their school day, leading to increased educational attainment
- 73%** of participants agree that the arts have helped them understand and appreciate other cultures better
- 72%** of participants have felt more invested in the community, providing a pipeline for future audience members, supporters, and employees of the region's cultural organizations

- ▶ Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and college-going rates as well as lower drop-out rates.
- ▶ Low-income students highly engaged in the arts are twice as likely to graduate college as their peers with no arts education.

91% OF AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT THE ARTS ARE PART OF A WELL-ROUNDED K-12 EDUCATION.

- ▶ Over 90% say students should receive an education in the arts in elementary school, middle school, and high school.
- ▶ 89% say the arts should also be taught outside of the classroom in the community.
- ▶ 55% of employed adults say their job requires them to “be creative and come up with ideas that are new and unique.”
- ▶ Art students are 55% more likely to attend post-secondary schools than students who don't take art classes.
- ▶ 60% say that the more creative and innovative they are at their job, the more successful they are in the workplace.



Get In Touch

Become a part of our arts education community
and see how creativity sparks learning.



- ▶ info@artsforlearning.org
- ▶ (716) 881-0917
- ▶ 1 Lafayette Square | Buffalo, NY 14203



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

artsforlearningwny.org