

# 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](https://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%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$884,422</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$745,401</b>	<b>100%</b>

  

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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$879,907</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$660,997</b>	<b>100%</b>

  

Change in Assets	2022-2023	2023-2024
	\$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

#### Executive Committee

**Michael Thomas**  
PRESIDENT  
**Karen Camp**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
**Zachary Jenkins**  
TREASURER  
**Jim Howe**  
SECRETARY

#### Emeritus

**Anthony Billoni**  
**Susan Levy**  
**Wendy Pierce**

#### Members

**Leanne Deshaies**  
**Laura Douglas**  
**Heather Kimmins**  
**Michael Leslie**  
**Arlow Linton, Esq.**  
**Paul Pérez**  
**Amy Wlosinski**

### CURRENT STAFF

**Amelia Schrader**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Beth Ireland**  
DIRECTOR OF  
DEVELOPMENT  
& MARKETING

**Allison Rabent**  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

**Tony Hahn**  
FINANCE & DATA  
ADMINISTRATOR

**Jesi Miller**  
PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR

**Netanya Thompson**  
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

**Meg Gonsalves**  
DEVELOPMENT &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR

**Maia Martínez**  
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

**Lissette 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**  
**Arabiqa**  
**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 IBOCES  
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  
Neil Aquino  
John & Anita Ballow  
Rosemarie Banks  
Brendan & Britney Barker  
Devon Battles  
Sylvia Bennett  
Mr. & Mrs. James & Patricia Boje  
Robert & Elizabeth Booth  
Ryan Culligan  
Michael & Carol Daniels  
Chelsea Davis  
Ashley Desmond  
Dr. Kathy Ralabate Doody  
John & Patricia Duffner  
Dr. Bonita R. Durand  
Krista M. Fisher  
Peter & Jacquelyn Flynn  
Maggie Fuentes  
Susan L. Levy Endowment Fund  
James Fretthold  
Patricia Gaedeke  
The Gagliano Family  
Kathryn Gagliano  
Patricia L Glick  
Molly Mullett Gold  
Joan Willard Gruen  
Joyce Hall  
Katelyn Hall

Jeff Higgins  
Patrick Hines  
Hispanic Heritage Council  
Carolyn Human  
Martha Hyde  
Beth Ireland  
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Jeffrey Krol  
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Joel Levin  
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Hannah Raiken-Schulman  
Linda Ray  
Al & Cindy Ripley  
Mary Anne Rokitka  
MK G Roland  
Sarah Rosenbluth  
Charles & Heidi Salva  
Leah Sciavunos  
Alecia M. Shaffer  
Kathleen & Robert Shaw  
Dr. Erin M. Slazak  
Cheryn Standart  
Valerie Stanek  
Keegan Sugnet  
Anne R. Tirone  
Denise & Kevin Towey  
Carol Townsend & Ruth Horvath  
Laurence Trott  
Phyllis Wendt Pierce  
Andrew Ziemanski

### \$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 Rumpel  
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](http://artsforlearningwny.org)



**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](mailto:info@artsforlearningwny.org)  
▶ [artsforlearningwny.org](http://artsforlearningwny.org)  
▶ (716) 881-0917



*Affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning*