

Arts Services Initiative of Western New York 2013 Annual Report

Our Mission:

Arts Services Initiative of Western New York promotes the cultural sector’s vital role in economic development and the community through advocacy, capacity building, and collaboration.

About ASI:

Arts Services Initiative of the Western New York, Inc. was created in 2011 to foster capacity building, collaboration, and advocacy efforts for the region’s cultural sector, an integral part of the fabric of our community.

ASI works closely with the Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance, and brings together several networks including Arts Partners for Learning, the Cultural Alliance of Niagara, the Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance, and the five county Cultural Summit.

ASI is a non-profit 501c3 organization governed by an independent board of directors comprising leaders in the area’s cultural, community, and business sectors. ASI has the support of the New York Council on the Arts and the Fund for the Arts, both of which participated in its development and provided initial operational funding.

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ASI Board of Directors:

- Mr. Randall Kramer – President
Artistic/Executive Director, MusicalFare Theatre
Co-Chair, Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance
- Ms. Stephanie Cole – Vice President
General Counsel, Niagara University
- Ms. Kate Koperski – Secretary
Director, Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University
President, Cultural Alliance of Niagara
- Ms. Kathleen Godwin - Treasurer
Owner, Accounting Repair & Maintenance
- Mr. E. Frits Abell
Managing Director, Northside Advisors
Founder, Buffalo Expat Network
- Mr. James Allen
Executive Director, Amherst Industrial Development Agency
- Ms. Anne Conroy-Baiter
Executive Director, Cattaraugus County Arts Council
- Ms. Paulette Harris
Artistic Director, Paul Robeson Theatre
- Mr. Tod A. Kniazuk (ad hoc)
Executive Director, Arts Services Initiative of WNY
- Ms. Sarah JM Kolberg
Consultant / Adjunct Faculty, Department of Media Study, University at Buffalo
- Mr. Mark McGovern
Project Manager, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus
- Mr. Gerald Mead
Adjunct Professor, Design Department, Buffalo State College
- Ms. Theresa Quinn, Esq.
Associate, Magavern Magavern Grimm LLP
- Dr. Irene Rykaszewski, PhD
Executive Director, Lewiston Council on the Arts
Secretary, Cultural Alliance of Niagara
- Ms. JoAnne Schwartz
Group Vice President, Community Reinvestment, M&T Bank
- Ms. Laurie Dean Torrell
Executive Director, Just Buffalo Literary Center
Co-Chair, Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance

ASI Staff:

- Mr. Tod A. Kniazuk – Executive Director
Ms. Jennifer Swan – Associate Director
Ms. Elizabeth Borngraber – Office Coordinator

2013 Accomplishments

ASI communicated job opportunities, calls for work, grant deadlines, an online resource guide and other important information through our website, Constant Contact, Facebook, and Twitter to over 3,000 organizations and individuals and held ongoing training sessions for organizations and individual artists on:

- Cultural Data Project,
- Cash Flow Forecasts,
- Strategic Planning,
- Board Development,
- Affordable Care Act (with Theatre Alliance of Buffalo and Actors Equity),
- Advocacy Using Cultural Data Project,
- Basic First Aid Topics for Arts Organizations,
- Fiscal Sponsorships and Crowdfunding,
- Art Collecting,
- Taking Your Career as a Fine Artist to the Next Level, and
- Concluding the new, first time executive directors series.



We also completed our second year administering the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation Buffalo River Assisted Programming Grants (resulting in close to 100 programs along the Buffalo River), continued managing the New York State Path Through History Western Region Work Group (also co-chair), and administered an artist in residence exchange between New York State and the Province of Quebec.



We continued our administration of five New York State Council on the Arts Regrant programs that resulted in 40 community and arts education programs (25 in Erie County, 12 in Niagara County, 3 Individual Artists commissions).



We continued advocacy at the county level including serving on the Erie County Arts Funding Advisory Board, and at the City of Buffalo where our efforts resulted in cultural funding being included in a mayor's draft budget for the first time in a decade. Additionally, a candidate survey was created for those who ran for City of Buffalo Mayor, Niagara Falls City Council, and Erie County Legislature and Comptroller that identified candidates' views on cultural funding and policy, as well as the place of arts and culture in the community, economic development,



tourism, and education, and was published in Artvoice and circulated throughout the cultural community prior to the Primary Election – making it one of the most widely available surveys in its first year. We also held a joint press conference with United States Congressman Brian Higgins to oppose proposed cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts.

ASI also represents the cultural sector on the One Region Forward Housing & Neighborhoods Work Group, Western New York Regional Economic Development Tourism Committee (co-chair) and "Buffalo Billion" Asset Development Committee, New York State Council on the Arts State & Local Partnerships, Presenting, and Consolidated Funding Application Panels, CharitySTRONG Buffalo Steering Committee, Leadership Buffalo Class Experience, and Americans for the Arts National Convention Marketing Committee and National Arts Advocacy Day.

