

Corporate Battle of the Bands rocks out Saturday

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Eight teams of business professionals will set aside their suits and ties in favor of guitars and microphones Saturday afternoon.

It's part of the region's first Corporate Battle of the Bands, a fundraiser for Give for Greatness, a program of the Arts Services Initiative of Western New York (ASI).

If you're thinking the event is about just rockers, you're probably thinking about your high school Battle of the Bands. This one will feature a variety of musical styles, including funk, folk, country, pop and yes, rock with participants ranging from bankers and accountants to lawyers and software engineers.

The event follows similar Battles in Syracuse, Raleigh-Durham and St. Louis, with some event raising as much as \$100,000.

"It seemed like Buffalo was a natural fit for something like this," said Connie Campanaro, development director at ASI and event organizer. "The whole thing was just grassroots built, with people calling other people and we soon completely sold out of the bands."

The event's initial success stemmed from two motivations, she said.

"It was intended to appeal to people who might have left behind their dream of being a famous musician to be a doctor or a lawyer or an accountant," Campanaro said. "It's also intended as a team-building exercise. First, you're going to build a band, and then someone on staff is going to build a fan base while someone else will get the auction items. I liken it to a musical version of the Corporate Challenge."

Here's a look at the lineup:

- So Sue Me, representing Harter Secrest and Emery
- 15 Fingers and the Other 5, representing 15 Fingers Ad Agency
- Pavlov's Cat, representing the University at Buffalo

- BROAK, representing Ingram Micro
- Methane, representing National Fuel Gas
- Authorized Party, representing M&T Bank
- Curb Appeal, representing Curbell Inc.
- Mandy Hintz & the Four No-Name Bankers, representing First Niagara Bank

Winners will be determined by a panel of celebrity judges as well as audience votes.

Give for Greatness raises funds for operational support at the region's arts and cultural organizations. Last year, the program awarded grants of \$1,000 apiece to 15 small and emerging organizations. Event sponsors include the Rupp Family Foundation, Entercom Radio, Artvoice, 15 Fingers and sponsoring corporations.

The event kicks off at 2 p.m. on Nov. 21 at Buffalo Ironworks. Tickets are \$22 in advance through Nov. 19 at the Ironworks box office, online at ticketfly.com or \$25 day-of-show.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2015/11/19/corporate-battle-of-the-bands-rocks-out-saturday.html>