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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Arts Services Initiative of Western New York awards over $120,000 in funding**

**to artists and organizations in Erie and Niagara Counties**

*New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization “DEC” Program*

Arts Services Initiative of Western New York (ASI), in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 **Decentralization (DEC)** grant program. Forty-eight organizations and artists in Erie and Niagara Counties will receive over $120,000 for community and school-based arts and cultural programs and artworks taking place in 2019.

This will be the seventh year ASI distributes these funds to the two Counties. “It has been a pleasure to serve as the newly appointed DEC Grant Coordinator for the 2019 grant cycle”, said ASI Grants & Programming Director Natalie Brown. “This year’s impressive list of grantees will provide life changing arts programming and new public artwork for Erie and Niagara County communities.”

ASI administers the DEC Grant program with funds provided by NYSCA. The purpose of the DEC program is to foster continued development of local arts programming based on the needs of the communities where they take place. DEC support enables emerging artists and organizations to grow professionally and enhance the cultural climate in communities and neighborhoods where they live and work.

The DEC program has three funding categories: **Community Arts**, **Arts Education**, and **Individual Artist Commissions**. All three categories are competitive art grants.

* The **Community Arts Grant** provides financial assistance for community-based arts activities offered by nonprofit organizations and/or individual artists with qualified partners.
* The **Arts Education Grant** provides financial assistance for arts education projects in K-12 public schools and publicly funded charter school settings and after-school programs to engage students in rich artistic learning experiences.
* The **Individual Artist Commission** supports the creation of new work that engages the community through the artists’ creative process.

**The 2019 recipients are:**

**Erie County Community Arts & Arts Education Grant Recipients (by Grantee Name and Project Title):**

Amherst Bel Canto Choir, Inc.- *NYACDA Invitational Choral Festival*

Brazen-Faced Varlets- *The Secretary by Kyle John Schmidt*

Buffalo Arts and Technology Center Inc. - *Youth Arts Program: Sustainability for the Digital Photography Class*

Buffalo Girlchoir- *"A Journey through Song" Concert*

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy- *2019 Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival*

Concord Historical Society- *Fiddler's Green Country & Bluegrass Festival*

Explore Buffalo- *Doors Open Buffalo*

Finding Refuge in Buffalo Project- *Finding Refuge in Buffalo*

Holland Community Choir- *Spring & Christmas Productions for 2019*

Hostel Buffalo-Niagara- *BOX Gallery 5th Anniversary Year*

India Association of Buffalo- *2019 Festival of India*

Leanne Darling- *Arabic Music Workshop and Concerts*

No Wound Untreated- *Check Your Trauma*

O’Connell & Company Productions, Inc.- *1776: An Award Winning Musical about the Founding Fathers & the Declaration of Independence*

Pappy Martin Legacy - *Masten Jazz Festival 24th Annual Pappy Martin Legacy*

Parkinson’s Foundation, WNY Chapter- *Art Moves Me at Burchfield Penney Art Center*

Peace of the City Ministries- “*Shakespeare Comes to 716”*

People Inc. - *Momentum WNY Choir*

Post-Industrial Productions of Buffalo, INC- *Medusa Undone by Bella Poynton*

Raíces Theatre Company- *Desde El Puente*

Red Blazer Men's Chorus- *Senior Citizen Concert Series*

Restoration Society, Inc.- *Restoration Stories: Creating Opportunities in the Arts*

Rosanna Elizabeth Corey Heckl Foundation for the Arts Inc*. - Community Wayang Project*

Starlight Studio and Art Gallery- *Starlight City Assemblies*

Second Generation Theatre co- *Second Generation Theatre presents NINE*

The Big Easy in Buffalo, Inc.- *The Big Easy in Buffalo 2019 Season*

The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art- *The Institution*

Town of Boston- *Town of Boston Arts Council 2019 Summer Concert Series*

Town of Brant- *2019 Brant-Farnham Monday Night FREE Summer Concerts*

Town of Elma- *2019 Summer Concerts on the Green*

Valley Community Association Inc.- *"Striving For Excellence" Art Program*

Village of Blasdell- *Village of Blasdell 2019 Summer Concert Series*

Village of Springville- *Heritage Park Kinetic Wind Sculptures*

West Falls Center for the Arts - *Harmonica for Veterans*

West Side Community Services, Inc.- *West Side Youth Arts*

**Niagara County Community Arts & Arts Education Grant Recipients:**

Cultural Alliance of Niagara- *Arts Niagara, Niagara County Arts & Cultural Marketing*

Kenan Center- *Jazz at the Taylor*

Lake Plains Players- *Oklahoma*

Lewiston Council on the Arts- *Earth Voices of the Great Spirit: A Celebration of Native American Culture*

Lock City Glee Club, Inc.- *Lock City Glee Club 2019 Concert Series*

Lockport Public Arts Council- *Sweet Chalk Festival 2019*

Niagara Falls Historic Preservation Society*- “Powerful People, Powerful Places”*

NYSARC Inc., Cattaraugus Niagara Counties Chapter- *"Take Us Home, Country Roads"*

The Lockport Chorale- *Music of the World: A Multi-Generational Showcase*

**Individual Artist Commission Grant Recipients (by Artist Name, County and Project Title):**

Stacey Lechevet (Erie County) - *Community Mural for the West Falls Center for the Arts*

Rosemarie Lorenti (Niagara County) - *Niagara Falls Public Pianos 2019*

Cynthia Pegado (Niagara County) - *Sound Dance*

Phyllis Thompson (Erie County) - *Making Memories: Telling Visual Stories*

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