#WE ARE WNY ARTS

“When creative minds are behind locked doors, our souls expand to express more through art.”

- Shobya Iyer

www.asiwny.org
2021: FUNDING REVIEW

In 2021, ASI distributed $201,150 in grant funding to individual artists & arts & cultural organization of Western New York.

1% 7% 30% 61%
$122,500 NYSCA Statewide Community Regrants (SCR)
$61,250 NYSCA Restart NY
$15,000 Give for Greatness
$2,400 Made in Buffalo Cheryl Stern Performing Artist Fund

10 years!!

In 2021 ASI celebrated our 10-year anniversary while assisting the arts and cultural field through continued COVID recovery. From awarding additional recovery grant funding to honoring those who use their art to support our communities, translating our program documents to reassessing our funding processes, ASI is putting the community we serve first and focusing our efforts on inclusivity, equity, and accessibility.

We recognize that the world is a different place in this post-pandemic world and our services should reflect that. This year we updated our strategic plan and will begin implementing it in 2022. This plan has us re-evaluating our programming and services to ensure we are serving the field to the best of our ability and defining and strengthening our advocacy efforts.

We look forward to embarking on year 11 with all of you and we are so grateful for every supporter who helped us to reach our campaign goal of $10,000 for 10 Years! We could not have done this without you.

New in 2021:
- Expanded NYSCA SCR to Chautauqua County
- NYSCA introduced the Restart NY Grants to support NY’s return to live performance and in-person events
- ASI launched Spanish translated grant applications

STAFF
Jen Swan-Kilpatrick | Executive Director
Mark Banaszk | Fiscal Associate
Devon Bradley | Engagement & Development Manager
Holly Grant | Grants & Programming Director
Cameryn Handel | Arts Access Coordinator
Nicole Murray | Marketing & Communications Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Craig Pridgen
Jordan Stives
Katherine Trapanovski
Heather Waines
Earl Wells
Katherine L. Wood
ASI's Spark Awards, presented by M&T Bank, returned to an in-person event to commemorate the outstanding achievements and developments of the WNY arts and cultural sector.

The 2021 Spark Awards featured an intimate reception at 500 Pearl on May 26, 2021. You can watch the recorded Spark Awards here!

2021 HONOREES

Arts Organization of the Year:
CEPA Gallery

Artist of the Year
Jalen A. Law

Arts Integration
Thembu Duncan, Shea’s Performing Arts Center, and the Buffalo Police Department’s Body Language Competency Training for New Recruits

DEC Program of the Year
Defiant Monkey Improv’s “The Brain of Dr. Delgado”

Leading Where You Are*
Nancy Clarke Mariani
Michael Quinnie
Jose Rodriguez
Gaitrie Subryan

Lifetime Achievement
Patrick Fagan

Rising Star
Nicole Cooke

Supporter of the Cultural Sector
Cullen Foundation

Trailblazer of the Arts
Aitina Fareed-Cooke

Unsung Hero
Joan Fishburn

* New Spark Award category

ASI on YouTube

The ASI YouTube page experienced a revitalization with a number of new videos introducing grant opportunities and grant writing tips.

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Creating a more inclusive and accessible arts and cultural community through access to the arts

There is no other program in Western New York that provides the same benefits and experiences as the Arts Access program. This includes free or reduced admission to partner arts and cultural organizations, free and accessible transportation to and from a partner program or event, and words words words words edit this later

**2021 ARTS ACCESS PARTNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts Access Partners in 2021 (galleries, museums, theaters, and more)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 new Arts Access Partners in 2021</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Arts Access passholders in 2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>547</td>
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<tr>
<th>Arts Access sign-up locations</th>
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<td>10</td>
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All transportation requests for passholders are fulfilled through a partnership with Hart Transportation.

All rides are of no cost to passholders and can accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and service animals.

**NEW IN 2021**

ASI introduced Spanish translated Arts Access materials, including applications and event packets.

There are over 60 languages spoken in the City of Buffalo, with Spanish being second to English. With support from foundations and individuals, ASI will provide Arts Access materials in other dominant languages of our region.

"Just wanted to share with you the JOY both mom and I have experienced these past months. I took mom to the Botanical Gardens and most recently to the Science Museum. This program has touched my mom with much pleasure and curiosity. She can’t wait for warmer days to explore our community."

- Arts Access passholder testimonial
In 2021, we dedicated ASI’s monthly spotlights to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and artists within the WNY region. For each month, we highlighted arts and cultural organizations, collectives, and individual artists that represent and support these communities. Follow the links to read the full spotlight.

### Black History Month is 365 Days a Year

The February spotlight featured two organizations whose missions are to educate, inform, and advocate for Black and African American history, heritage, and rights:
- Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission
- Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center

### Mental Health: How the Arts Can Help

April’s spotlight highlighted work to alleviate mental health challenges within the community, including veterans and active duty military personnel:
- Oishei Children’s Hospital: Healing Arts Program
- Sara Rogers: Music Therapy
- Ms. Sondra: Musical Meditation Program
- Michael Falk: Rock or Something Animation
- Albright Knox: Vets AK

### Building Community Through the Arts

May’s spotlight focused on arts and cultural organizations whose work provides community for the immigrant, refugee, and newly arrived populations of WNY:
- Buffalo String Works
- Stitch Buffalo
- Nusantara Arts

### Supporting Women In and Through the Arts

The March spotlight featured four WNY women who are paving the way for women in and through the arts:
- Lara Haberberger: Brazen-Faced Varlets
- Michelle Marcotte: Women Artists in WNY
- Kathleen Bassett: Buffalo Girls Choir
- Celeste Lawson: Typography of Women

### Express Yourself: Finding Purpose Through Art

The Pride Month spotlight featured local creatives whose work intertwined with their relationship to the LGBTQIA+ community:
- Christiano Pereira
- Anthony Alterio
- Queen City Kings Drag

### The Hidden Gems of Rural WNY

July spotlight featured three organizations doing impactful work in their rural communities:
- Shake on the Lake
- North Shore Arts Alliance
- Griffis Sculpture Park

### Lifelong Learning in the Arts

The August spotlight featured leaders whose work exemplifies how the arts promote lifelong learning:
- Atina Fareed-Cooke: Get Fokus’d Productions
- Dr. Katherine Levy: The New Horizons Band of WNY

### ¡Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana!

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, September’s spotlight featured three artists representing different art forms and cultures:
- Ricardo Saeb
- MarCe Zerrate: Amor and Heritage
- Michele Agosto: Los Artistas del Barrio Buffalo

### Spotlight On Inclusivity in the Arts

October’s monthly spotlight featured two organizations focused on inclusive arts:
- Starlight Studio and Art Gallery
- Unique Theatre Company

### The Importance of Creating Spaces for Indigenous Artists

The November spotlight featured the impact of Indigenous art and artists on our culture:
- K Art: Indigenous Contemporary Art Gallery
- Native Voices Celebration at the Niagara Arts & Cultural Center

### Art at the Intersection of Culture & Spirituality

December’s final spotlight of 2021 featured artists and arts organizations focusing their work around spiritual themes and messages:
- Muhammad Zaman: Arabic Calligraphy
- Mary Holland: Buffalo Religious Art Center
Give for Greatness grants provide general operating support for small to mid-sized arts and cultural organizations within the 5 counties of Western New York. Due to the pandemic and the cancellation of the Lawyers for the Arts event for 2021, ASI had limited funding available for this year’s program. This made the 2021 Give for Greatness grants more competitive than ever. For 2021, we awarded $15,000 to the following exemplary arts and cultural organizations.

2021 RECIPIENTS:

- Allegany Arts Association
- Black Rock Historical Society
- Buffalo Girlchoir
- Buffalo International Film Festival
- Buffalo Society of Artists
- Buffalo United Artists
- Chautauqua Regional Youth Symphony
- Lock City Sound
- Nusantara Arts
- Pappy Martin Legacy Jazz Collective
- Rock Autism
- Stitch Buffalo
- The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art
- Tri-County Arts Council
- Unique Theatre Company

ASI thanks the following for their contributions to the Give for Greatness program:

- Fund for the Arts
- The Marilyn Gohr McTaggart Reveal Fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
- The Rupp Family Foundation

TEN YEAR REVIEW

$1,849,260

AWARDED TO WNY ARTISTS & ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS SINCE ASI BEGAN IN 2011.

- $187,000 GIVE FOR GREATNESS
- $235,640 ARTS EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND
- $1,253,000 STATEWIDE COMMUNITY REGRANTS (SCR)/ FORMERLY DEC
- $4,000 FENDRICK THEATRE FUND
- $108,370 GLOBAL WARMING ART PROJECT
- $61,250 RESTART NEW YORK GRANTS
JEN SWAN-KILPATRICK:
VICE PRESIDENT OF ARTS NYS

Our very own, Jen Swan-Kilpatrick, was elected Vice President of Arts NYS!! Jen has been a dedicated board member at Arts NYS since 2019 and is eager to take on the role of Vice President.

In her position, Jen will have the opportunity to amplify the advocacy work she spearheads at ASI for the Western New York region to a statewide level. Items such as advocating for greater allocation of funding to the arts, heightening awareness of the impact of the arts on education, health and economic development, and increasing visibility of the WNY arts community are on the agenda.

ArtsNYS provides a support network and source of information for the field, fosters relationships between arts/cultural leaders and those in other sectors, promotes inclusiveness, diversity, and accessibility, and leads state-wide advocacy efforts.

ARTS ADVOCACY

At ASI, advocacy for the arts and cultural sector is an important part of what we do in service of the area’s independent artists, 500+ not for profit cultural organizations, their thousands of employees, and the hundreds of thousands who invest in the cultural sector through their attendance, service, and donations.

CANDIDATE SURVEYS

Each election cycle, ASI poses a series of questions to candidates running for elected office across the region, focusing on the legislative and executive branches. In 2021, ASI sent surveys to candidates in the following races: City of Buffalo Mayoral Candidates, Erie County Legislature, and Niagara County Legislature.

These candidate surveys allow voters to read candidate responses on their viewpoints and priorities towards the arts to help voters make educated decisions for the better interest of the sector.

NEW STAFF

In 2021, ASI welcomed 3 new staff members! Devon, Cameryn, and Nicole eagerly took on their new roles, beginning their positions in the midst of the pandemic. Among zoom meetings and small-scale events, they kick-started their ASI journeys and we are so happy to have them on board.

Devon Bradley
Engagement & Development Manager

“For me, the biggest part of 2021 was beginning in the midst of ASI’s first big fundraising campaign for the 10 Year Anniversary - and I am proud to say that our generous networks and supporters helped us to surpass our goal of $10,000 for 10 years! So thank you for making that a huge success!”

Cameryn Handel
Arts Access Coordinator

“My favorite is when I am on a site visit and individuals are so excited to learn that Arts Access is a real thing!”

Nicole Murray
Marketing & Communications Manager

“This position has given me a lot of flexibility to learn more about the advantages of social media marketing. I’ve really enjoyed getting to know our audiences and figuring out what works for ASI.”

Alana Adkins Arts Photography, LLC.

Jen Swan-Kilpatrick speaking at the 2021 Spark Awards

Alana Adkins Arts Photography, LLC.

Jen Swan-Kilpatrick speaking at the 2021 Spark Awards
FRIENDS OF ASI

Catherine M. Agnello
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Amherst Symphony Orchestra Association
Anonymous
Rose Banaszak
Kathleen & Matthew Bassett
Anthony Battaglia
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John Smigielski
Joanne Smikle
Stephen Solook
Starring Buffalo
Jordan Steves
Owen Ó Súilleabháin
Michael Walline
Gary Wolfe
Katherine Wood

10 Year Anniversary
2011 - 2021
ASI Rebrand

NEW LOOK,
SAME
GREAT
SERVICES.

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