

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



Arts  
Services  
INC



*Alana Adetola Arts Photography, LLC.*

## #WE ARE WNY ARTS

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

- Shobya Iyer

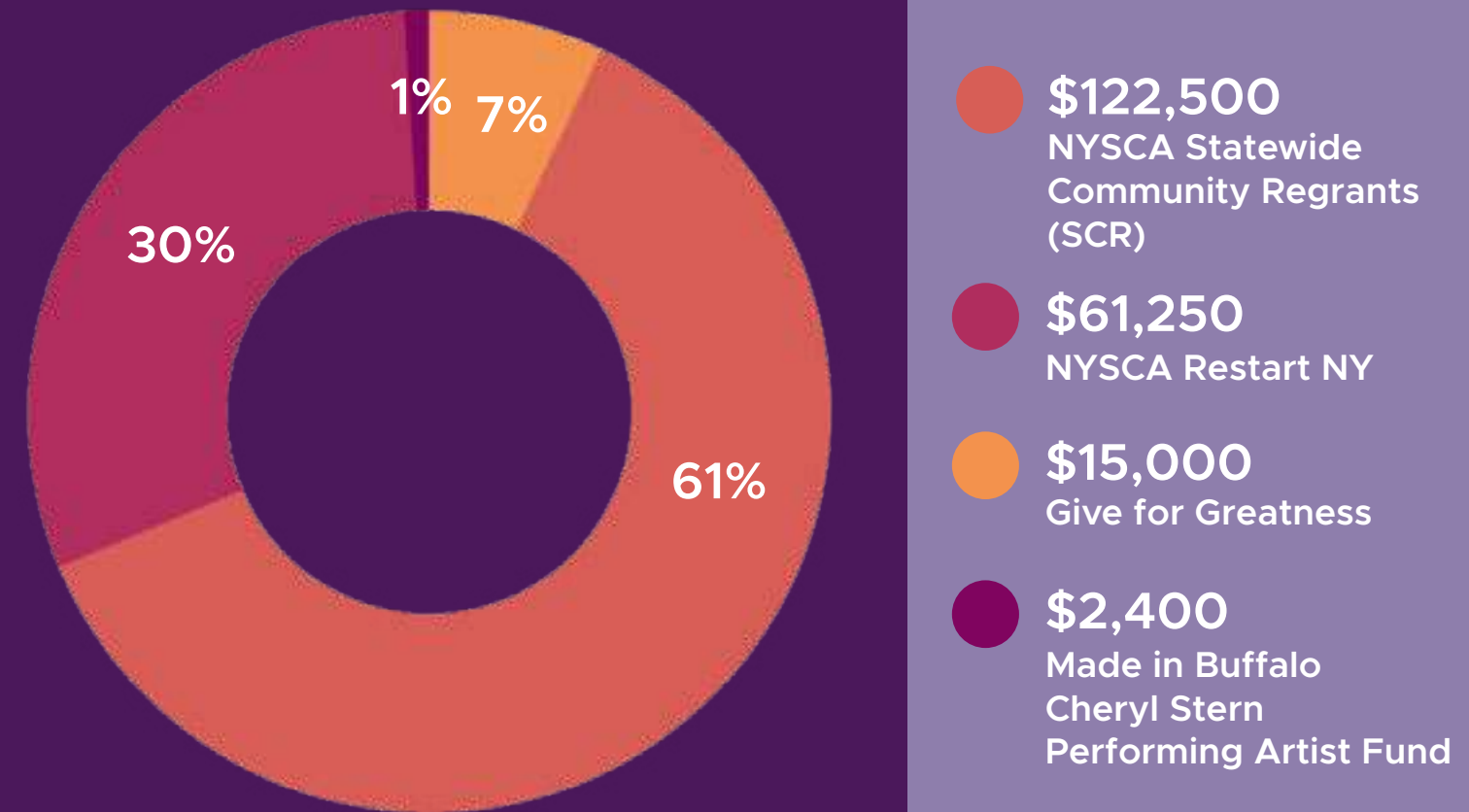
[www.asiwny.org](http://www.asiwny.org)



Alana Adetola Arts Photography, LLC.

## 2021: FUNDING REVIEW

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



### 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

### 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.

### STAFF

Jen Swan-Kilpatrick | Executive Director  
 Mark Banaszak | 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

Broderick Cason – President  
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 Daniel Montante  
 Owen Ó Súilleabháin  
 Craig Pridgen  
 Jordan Steves  
 Katherine Trapanovski  
 Heather Warnes  
 Earl Wells  
 Katherine L. Wood

# ASI SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT



## FACEBOOK

4,712 Followers



## INSTAGRAM

2,163 Followers



## TWITTER

1,663 Followers



## LINKED IN

403 Followers

## ASI ON YOUTUBE



## YOUTUBE

68 Followers

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



### FOLLOW US:

@asiwny

Facebook.com/asiwny

Youtube.com/user/asiwny

LinkedIn.com/company/asiwny

2021

# Spark Awards

Presented by M&T Bank

## 2021 HONOREES

Arts Organization of the Year:  
CEPA Gallery

Artist of the Year  
Jalen A. Law

Arts Integration  
Thembi 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 Quinniey  
Jose Rodriguez  
Gaitrie Subryan

Lifetime Achievement  
Patrick Fagan

Rising Star  
Nicole Cooke

Supporter of the Cultu  
Cullen Foundation

Trailblazer of the Arts  
Aitina Fareed-Cooke

Unsung Hero  
Joan Fishburn

\* New Spark Award category



Alana Adetola Arts Photography, LLC.

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!](#)



Alana Adetola Arts Photography, LLC.



**45** Arts Access Partners in 2021 (galleries, museums, theaters, and more)  
*6 new Arts Access Partners in 2021*

**547** Arts Access passholders in 2021

**10** Arts Access sign-up locations

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*

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

- Albright-Knox Art Gallery (Northland)
- Alleyway Theatre
- Aquarium of Niagara
- Brazen-Faced Varlets Theater
- Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens
- Buffalo Arts Studio
- Buffalo Chamber Players
- Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus
- Buffalo History Museum
- Buffalo International Film Festival, Inc.
- Buffalo Museum of Science
- Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village\*
- Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus
- Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
- Burchfield Penney Art Center
- Carnegie Art Center
- ComedySportz Buffalo
- Darwin Martin House
- Explore & More - The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children’s Museum
- Explore Buffalo
- Friends of Vienna
- Graycliff\*
- Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
- Irish Classical Theatre Company
- Jewish Repertory Theatre
- Just Buffalo Literary Center
- Kenan Center
- Music Is Art
- MusicalFare Theatre
- Neglia Ballet
- Niagara Arts & Cultural Center\*
- Niagara Falls Underground Heritage Center
- Nickel City Opera
- Peach Mag
- Road Less Traveled Productions
- Starring Buffalo\*
- Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Center
- Theatre of Youth
- Torn Space Theatre
- Trinity Episcopal Church: Fresh Voices Speaker Series
- University at Buffalo Arts Collaboratory: The Space Between Gallery\*
- Ujima Theatre Company, Inc.
- WNY Book Arts Center
- Young Audiences of Western New York

### 2021 ARTS ACCESS SIGN-UP PARTNERS

- Albright-Knox Art Northland
- Carnegie Art Center
- Delevan Grider Community Center
- Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo
- Peaceprints of WNY\*
- Rural Outreach Center\*
- Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Center
- Town of Cheektowaga Senior Center
- West Side Community Services

\* Indicates new Arts Access partners in 2021

# MARGINALIZED VOICES IN WNY ARTS

*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](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **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: [Aitina Fareed-Cooke: Get Fokus'd Productions](#) & [Dr. Katherine Levy: The New Horizons Band of WNY](#)

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## **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 Girlchoir](#), & [Celeste Lawson: Typography of Women](#)

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## **¡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](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **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](#)

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## **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](#) & the [Native Voices Celebration](#) at the Niagara Arts & Cultural Center

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## **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](#)

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## **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](#)

# Give for Greatness



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



2011 ..... 2021

# \$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

# 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.

## 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.

## 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.

*Alana Adetola Arts Photography, LLC.*  
*Jen Swan-Kilpatrick speaking at the 2021 Spark Awards*

# 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.”

# DONORS & FUNDERS

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## INNOVATORS



**Council on  
the Arts**

## PREMIER PARTNERS



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

## STAR PARTNERS



**Rupp Family Foundation**

**MARILYN GOHR MCTAGGERT REVEAL FUND  
AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR  
GREATER BUFFALO**

Conable Family Foundation Fund at the  
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo  
Cindy & Charles Demarti  
Excellus Health Plan Inc.  
Ferguson Electric  
Holly Grant  
Highmark Western & Northeastern NY  
Julian R. & Varue W. Oishei Foundation  
Nancy Tobin/Filvaroff Family  
Endowment c/o Community Foundation for  
Greater Buffalo  
Rigidized Metals Corporation  
Savarino Properties  
Wegmans

## PATRONS OF ASI

Buffalo Urban Development  
Broderick Cason  
Chautauqua Institution  
Anne Conable  
CNY Arts  
David & Susan Wedekindt  
E3communications  
Equitable Foundation  
Ryan & Jennifer Flore  
Michael Jackson  
David Montante  
Jen Swan-Kilpatrick  
Katherine Trapanovski  
Tri-Main Development  
Heather Warnes  
Michelle Watorek  
Earl Wells



# FRIENDS OF ASI

Catherine M. Agnello  
Sue Fay Allen & Carl Klingenschmitt  
Alleyway Theatre Inc.  
Amherst Symphony Orchestra Association  
Anonymous  
Rose Banaszak  
Kathleen & Matthew Bassett  
Anthony Battaglia  
Dawn Martin Berry-Walker  
Devon Bradley  
Bryan Braswell  
Michelle Braswell  
Buffalo Urban League  
Peter Cammarata  
Edmund Cardoni Jr.  
Rob Cassetti  
CCNY  
Community Connections of New York  
Sean Crawford  
Donna Crider  
R. Scott Deluca  
Normal Duttweiler  
Erin & John Ewell  
Patrick Fagan  
Alan Feller  
Mark Filsinger  
Johnny Flowers  
Lee Ann Grace  
Leslie Greenbaum  
Richard Greenberg  
Esther Greene  
Brad Hahn  
Health Foundation for Western &  
Central New York  
Nadine Helta  
Stanton Hudson  
Carlos Jones  
Anna Kaplan  
Kathleen Keenan-Takagi  
Ellen Kennedy

Thomas & Judith Knab  
Tod Kniazuk  
Randall Kramer  
Celeste Lawson  
Barbara Libby  
Jane Liebner  
David Lundy  
Michelle Maggard  
Megan McElfresh  
Lisa Mitchell  
Margaret Murray  
Mary Beth Murray  
McGuire Development  
The Pace Law Firm PLLC  
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Susan Przybyl  
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Elizabeth Reynolds  
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Andrew Roaldi  
Kenneth Rogers  
Dave Ruch  
Michelle Rudnicki  
Amelia Schrader  
Susan Schwartz  
Carol Scibelli  
Susan Sherman  
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,  
NEW NAME,

SAME  
GREAT  
SERVICES.



*Promoting the Western New York Arts and Cultural Sector*

### OUR PROGRAMS

Arts Access  
Arts Advocacy  
Fiscal Services  
Grants & Funding  
Professional Development  
Spark Awards  
And More!

Tri-Main Center  
2495 Main St.  
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