

ANNUAL REPORT



2024

WHO WE ARE

STAFF

Jennifer Swan-Kilpatrick	Executive Director
Mark Banaszak	Fiscal Manager
Kelsey Capruso	Marketing & Communications Manager
Olivia Duke	Programs & Services Coordinator
Holly Grant	Grants & Programming Director
Desiree Kee	Programs & Outreach Coordinator
Andrea Nero PhD	Senior Development & Engagement Specialist
Gaitrie Subryan	Programs & Outreach Coordinator
Sidney Bucko	Temporary Project Team
Destiny Caceres	Temporary Project Team
Riley Dungan	Temporary Project Team
Annamarie Garey	Temporary Project Team
Kaitlyn Lowe	Temporary Project Team
Isabela Nieves	Temporary Project Team
Lindsey Roth	Temporary Project Team
Alexandria Szewczyk	Temporary Project Team
Jess Trainor	Temporary Project Team

BOARD

Owen Ó Súilleabháin	President
Michelle Braswell	Vice President
Katherine Trapanovski	Secretary
Heather Warnes	Treasurer
Lindsay Aleshire	Board Member
Rick Davis	Board Member
Michael A. de Freitas	Board Member
Michael (MYK) Farrow	Board Member
Ryan Flore	Board Member
Noah Goodling	Board Member
Stephen Grimm	Board Member
Kimberly Schuette	Board Member
Jordan Steves	Board Member
Earl Wells III	Board Member
Katherine L. Wood, Esq.	Board Member



Artist: Tara Bystran-Pruski

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jen Swan-Kilpatrick,
Executive Director



Dear friends,

At the end of 2023, we had big plans for the year ahead. We set out to expand our reach, launch bold new programs, deepen our advocacy, and foster stronger connections across communities.

We did that—and so much more.

This year, we awarded more than **\$772,000 in grants to artists and arts organizations** across WNY, launched new public art opportunities, expanded funding access through our Creative Impact Fund, and opened the door to arts opportunities through the Arts Access program. We saw creativity spark community in powerful ways—from murals in public spaces to inclusive performances and grassroots festivals.

We also doubled down on professional development. More than **880 people attended workshops and trainings** through programs such as *From the Ground Up*, *MEDAL*, *Chill Sessions*, and more. These sessions weren't just about skill-building—they were about growing together, exchanging ideas, and supporting each other's development.

Our team continued to provide essential behind-the-scenes services: **fiscal sponsorship, bookkeeping, and one-on-one guidance** to help creative projects thrive. Programs like *Arts Access* and *Springboard Fellowship* broke down barriers and built belonging—reminding us that the arts aren't just about performance or product; they're about people.

We shared AEP6 findings across WNY and amplified our voice in advocacy for the arts, including my appointment as Co-Chair of ArtsNYS. The data confirms what we've always known: **the arts are essential—to our economy, our communities, and our future.**

None of this would be possible without you. Thanks for showing up, speaking out, and believing in the arts.

With gratitude,
Jen Swan-Kilpatrick
Executive Director, Arts Services Inc.

GRANT DISTRIBUTION

One of ASI’s core values is to invest in the creative workforce by providing direct financial support to artists and arts and cultural organizations across Western New York. In 2024, we proudly **granted and regranted \$772,500** through our partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), our *Give for Greatness* fund, and the *Fendrick Theatre Fund*.

This funding supported **113 recipients—individual artists and nonprofit organizations**—whose projects span exhibitions, performances, festivals, residencies, and more. We received **over 300 applications**, underscoring the growing demand for accessible arts funding in our region.

This marks our largest grant-making year yet, continuing a pattern of steady growth and expanded impact:

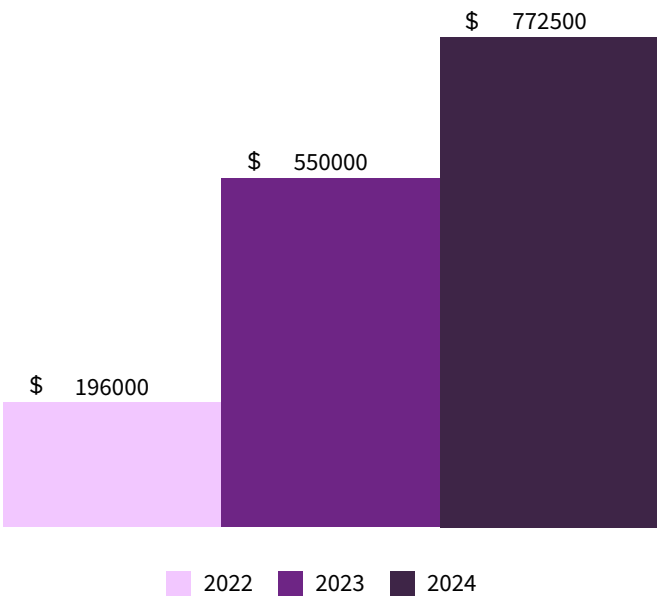
- **2024:** \$772,500 granted to 113 recipients
- **2023:** \$550,000 granted to 157 recipients
- **2022:** \$196,000 granted to 82 recipients

We’re proud to play a role in sustaining and uplifting Western New York’s dynamic creative community—and we remain committed to growing this impact in the years to come.

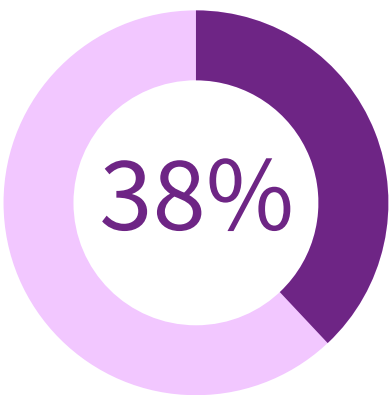
"This grant has been transformative for our library, enabling us to significantly enhance our art programming... These enriching experiences have deepened our community’s engagement with the arts and strengthened our role as a vibrant cultural hub."

- **Tina Dalton, Library Director, Cuba Circulating Library**

TOTAL DOLLARS GRANTED AND REGRANTED ANNUALLY



FUNDING RATE OF APPLICANTS



113 funded projects out of 301 applicants

GIVE FOR GREATNESS & LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS



Each spring, Western New York's legal community swaps briefs for band tees at Lawyers for the Arts—a rock concert fundraiser where attorneys, judges, and legal professionals take the stage in support of the arts.

Proceeds benefit *Give for Greatness*, ASI's signature grant program and one of the region's only sources of unrestricted support for small and mid-sized arts nonprofits—keeping lights on, rent paid, and creativity thriving.

In 2024, the event rocked The Stage in Williamsville, raising over \$36,000 for Give for Greatness. Thanks to lead sponsors **Hodgson Russ LLP, Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, and Northwest Bank**, the night featured **10 bands, 53 sponsors, and 60+ legal professionals-turned-performers.**

From high-energy openers to a heartfelt 50/50 raffle donation, the event proved philanthropy rocks—and sometimes gives an encore.

In 2024, **fifteen small and micro-sized arts and cultural nonprofits** received general operating support through the Give for Greatness grant;

- American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs
- Beau Fleuve Music & Arts (BFM Arts, Inc.)
- Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project
- Buffalo Girlchoir
- Buffalo Society of Artists
- Friends of Limerick Inc.
- Greater Niagara Ballet Company
- Lewiston Council on the Arts
- Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, Inc.
- Southern Tier Symphony
- The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art
- The Fountain Arts Center, Inc.
- Unique Theatre Company
- Virtuous Diamonds Foundation Inc.



Photo Credit: Jeff Belling

"This capacity-building grant is a transformative step for Unique Theatre Company. With this funding, we can restructure our board, expand our community partnerships, and secure essential resources to grow our organization sustainably."

- Dr. Katrina Fulcher-Rood, Unique Theatre Co. 5.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

ASI's fiscal sponsorship program supports artists and grassroots organizations by allowing them to receive tax-deductible donations and grant funding—without the burden of forming their own 501(c)(3). In 2024, **ASI fiscally sponsored 49 artists and projects**, opening up new pathways to funding, collaboration, and visibility.

Of those sponsored, **18 were selected for the New York State Council on the Arts Support for Artists grant**, which provides \$10,000 in project support for eligible applicants. Individual artist categories for this opportunity include:

- Choreography Commissions
- Composer Compositions
- Film, Media, and New Technology
- Folk and Traditional Arts
- Interdisciplinary
- Literature
- Theater Commissions
- Visual Arts

ASI provides fiscal sponsors with tailored support—from administrative guidance to financial oversight—along with access to our broad network of partners and collaborators.

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

In 2024, ASI provided **professional bookkeeping services for 14 organizations and artists**. From organizing financial records to assisting with budgets, reports, and grant compliance, ASI's bookkeeping clients benefit from systems that meet the specific needs of creative professionals.

We support fiscal clarity, so artists and organizations can focus on their work—not the paperwork.

“ASI's bookkeeping services provide a much needed and very reasonably priced resource for cultural organizations that is not available anywhere else.”

– MusicalFare Theatre

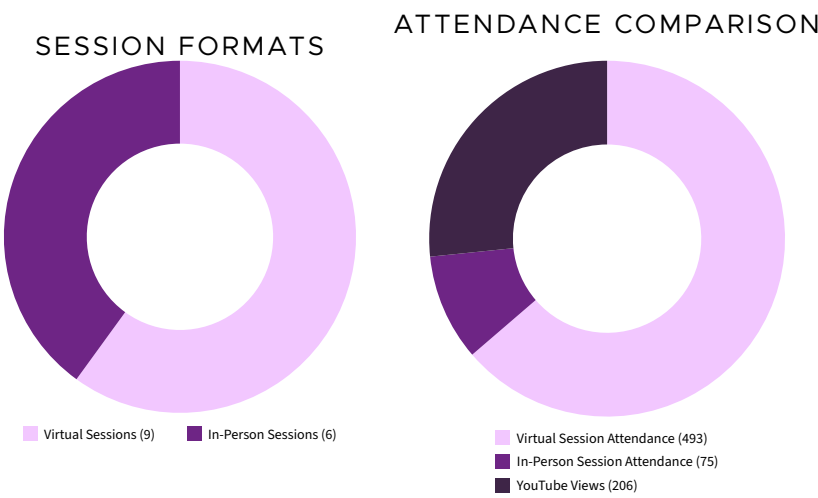


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FROM THE GROUND UP

In its second full year, *From The Ground Up* continued to expand and respond to the evolving needs and challenges of the arts and culture sector. Session topics ranged from Board Development and Strategic Planning to Arts Marketing, Nonprofit Governance, Annual Appeal Writing, and more.

The program engaged **493 participants in virtual sessions** and welcomed **75 attendees to in-person workshops**. Attendees benefited not only from the knowledge and insights of our expert presenters and facilitators, but also from the shared experiences and thoughtful discussions among their peers.



THE ART OF PURSUING GRANTS

In March 2024, ASI partnered with Get Fokus'd Productions to launch *The Art of Pursuing Grants*, a six-session workshop series led by award-winning artist and entrepreneur Aitina Fareed-Cooke. The program supported a cohort of **10 emerging and mid-career artists** selected from 23 applicants. Over the course of three weeks, participants gained hands-on experience in grant writing, budgeting, and articulating their creative vision—building skills to confidently pursue funding and advance their artistic careers.

Photo Credit: Get Fokus'd Productions

OTHER WORKSHOPS

To support applicants in navigating the grant process with confidence, ASI staff hosted five in-person workshops across Western New York focused on **grant writing and program budget development**. These sessions were designed to demystify the application process and equip artists and organizations with the tools to submit strong, competitive proposals. A total of **54 participants attended**, gaining practical knowledge to strengthen their applications for ASI's grant opportunities and beyond.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MOLDING EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS INTO ARTS LEADERS (MEDAL)

ASI's MEDAL program is forging the next generation of WNY arts leaders.

This six-month training and mentorship program offered **10 emerging arts and culture leaders** monthly workshops and presentations, along with resources, networking, and consultation related to managing a nonprofit organization. Participants were selected through a competitive application process based on their willingness to learn and grow as a leader.

"As a young, still relatively-inexperienced arts leader, I treasured the opportunity to talk with some of the industry's brightest minds. It has set me up for success in every way and I am so grateful for the opportunity."

- **2024 MEDAList**

MEET OUR 2024 MEDALists

- **Gerard Briggs**, Full Circle Family Services Inc.
- **Hy Carrel**, Community Canvases
- **Tami Fuller**, Roycrofters at Large Association, Inc.
- **Matthew Marco**, Buffalo Opera Unlimited
- **Riley Nahlik**, Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus
- **Myra Ofield**, YITC Foundation Inc.
- **Emily Reynolds**, The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art
- **Michael Russo**, Starring Buffalo
- **Ricardo Saeb**, Buffalo String Works
- **Jun Wang-Tiedemann**, APAPA Buffalo-Niagara Chapter

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SPRINGBOARD FELLOWSHIP

Launched in 2023, the Springboard Fellowship provides **paid opportunities for emerging arts and culture professionals** in WNY through **placements with small nonprofit arts organizations**. The program's twofold goal is:

1. To support underrepresented individuals by offering paid, hands-on experience and mentorship to help them pursue sustainable careers in the arts
2. To support micro and small arts nonprofits by connecting them with emerging talent and offering modest stipends to offset costs tied to mentorship.

In 2024, the program expanded to **5 fellows** building a more inclusive and prepared creative workforce for the region. The five partner organizations included;

- Buffalo GirlChoir
- Buffalo Opera Unlimited
- Buffalo Society of Artists
- Tri-County Arts Council
- WNY Book Arts Center



Tri-County Arts Council with Fellow Sean Huntington



Buffalo Society of Artists with Fellow Gaitrie Subryan

CHILL SESSIONS

ASI's newest offering was introduced in 2024 - *Chill Sessions*. This program is a unique and welcoming gathering designed for artists and arts professionals to connect, share, and inspire. These relaxed events provide a supportive space for meaningful dialogue, creative exploration, and collaboration. And each session is followed by an ice cream social where participants can build community with like-minded individuals.

Our 2024 presenters and topics included;

- "Art & Activism" with Aaron Bartley
- "The Art of Theatre" with Curtis Lovell
- "Community Engagement through the Arts" with Beatriz Flores
- "Art in the Digital Age" with XIII



Aaron Bartley presenting at Fitz Books and Waffles

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS EXCHANGE: EMERGENCE

This **one-day conference**, held on Friday, June 7th at the historic Roycroft Campus, focused on the theme of *Emergence* and brought together creatives of all backgrounds and career stages to explore personal growth and community impact.

A wide range of topics presented **empowered creatives to reimagine their work and its impact**, explore new perspectives and strategies for finding their creative voices and leverage it for the betterment of both themselves and their community.

New accessibility features were introduced this year, including a flexible pricing model and free shuttle transportation to and from the City of Buffalo. We welcomed **43 participants**, a record number, many of whom left feeling energized and inspired to approach their work with fresh ideas and renewed purpose.

43

PARTICIPANTS

11

INDUSTRY EXPERTS
& FACILITATORS

08

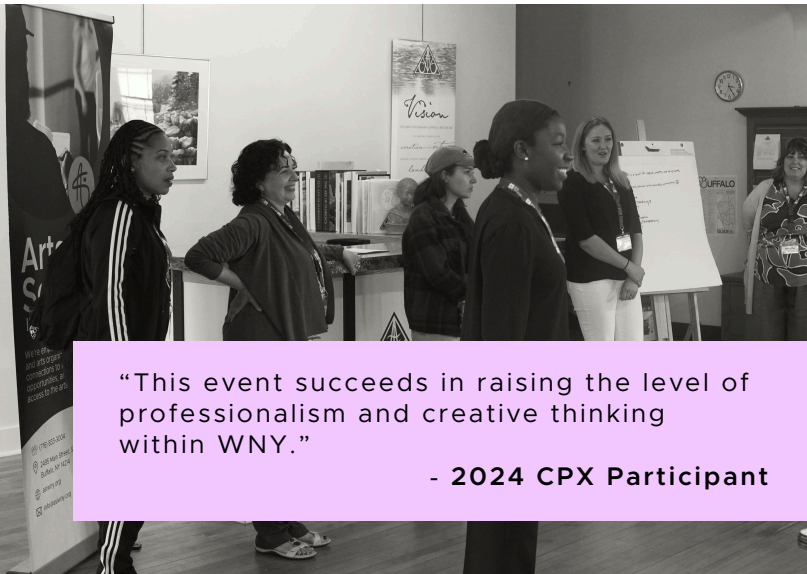
WORKSHOPS



AVERAGE EVENT RATING
4.5 STARS



PRESENTATION RELEVANCE
4.25 STARS



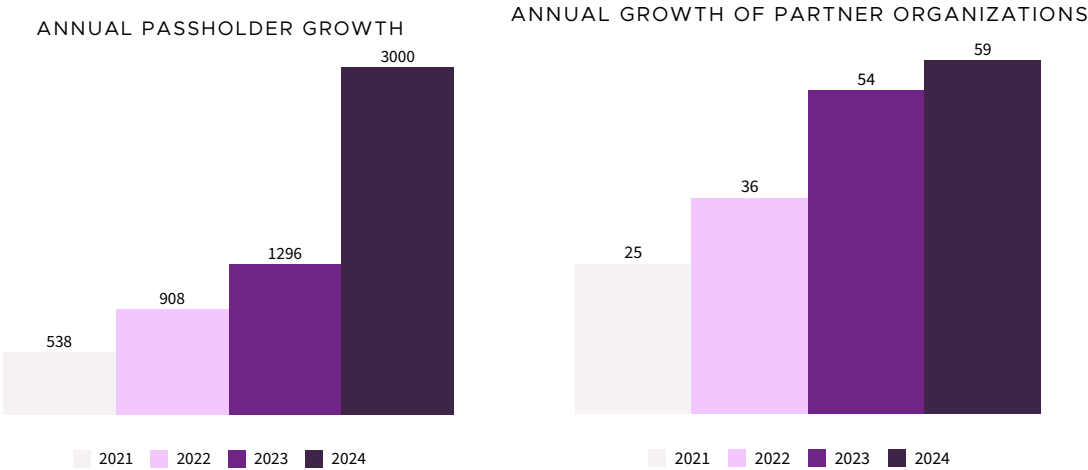
“This event succeeds in raising the level of professionalism and creative thinking within WNY.”

- 2024 CPX Participant

ARTS ACCESS

Established by Arts Services Inc. in 2013, the Arts Access program was created to remove the barriers that prevent many Western New Yorkers from experiencing the arts—including cost, transportation, language, and effort. Anyone receiving income-based public assistance in WNY is eligible to apply. ASI also offers free, safe, and accessible transportation to partner events through our collaboration with Hart Transportation.

In 2024, Arts Access experienced unprecedented growth—welcoming over **3,000 passholders**, more than double the previous year. The program also reached a record high of **59 partner organizations**, expanding access to more venues and events than ever before.



"(This) was the one of the nicest days I have had in such a long time, in so many ways... Being alone at home most of the time can get depressing at times. Finding events or things to do becomes quite a challenge and this was perfect! From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much."

- Kate, Arts Access Pass Holder and Lottery Winner

"Thank you for offering such a great program. I took my niece to the Theatre of Youth last weekend and we had an absolute blast! I'm so grateful for the chance to enjoy these kinds of experiences and share them with my family and friends."

- Debbie, Arts Access Passholder



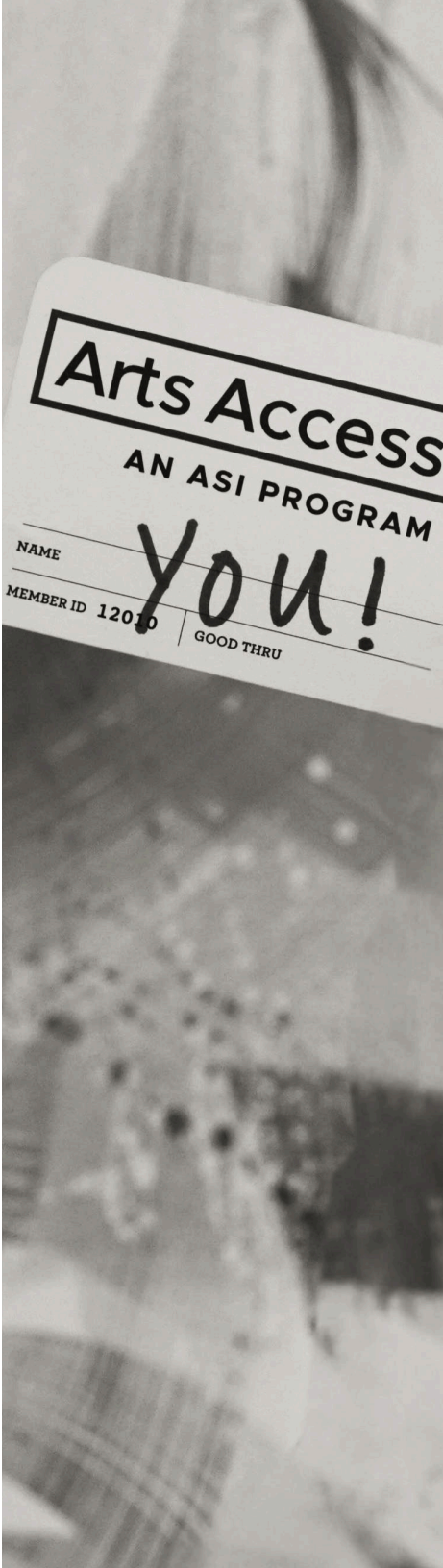
ARTS ACCESS

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

AKG Art Museum	Just Buffalo Literary Center
Alleyway Theatre	Kavinoky Theatre
Artpark & Co.	Kenan Center
Aquarium of Niagara	Lancaster Opera House
Bellissima Productions	Locust Street Art
Buffalo & Erie Co. Botanical Gardens	Music is Art
Buffalo Arts Studio	MusicalFare Theatre
Buffalo Chamber Players	Neglia Ballet
Buffalo Comedy Collective	Niagara Arts & Cultural Center
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus	Niagara Falls Underground Railroad
Buffalo GirlChoir	Heritage Center
Buffalo History Museum	Old Fort Niagara
Buffalo International Film Festival	Penn Dixie Fossil Park
Buffalo Museum of Science	Reg Lenna Center for the Arts
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village	Road Less Traveled Productions
Buffalo Opera Unlimited	Roger Tory Peterson Institute
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus	Second Generation Theatre
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra	Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art
Buffalo United Artists	Center
Burchfield Penney Art Center	Starring Buffalo
Carnegie Art Center	Sukanya Burman Dance Inc.
Chautauqua Institution	The Big Easy in Buffalo
Darwin Martin House	The Buffalo Zoo
El Museo	The Camerata di Sant'Antonio
Explore & More Children's Museum	Chamber Orchestra
Explore Buffalo	The Foundry
Graycliff	Theatre of Youth
Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center	Torn Space Theatre
Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum	Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site
Irish Classical Theatre Co.	Ujima Company, Inc.
Jewish Repertory Theatre	WNY Book Arts Center

ARTS ACCESS PLUS LOTTERY

Arts Access relies on the generosity of our partner organizations, who donate tickets to make arts experiences more accessible. However, special events like guest performances or touring shows are sometimes excluded. Through Arts Access Plus, ASI was able to purchase **42 tickets** in 2024 for passholders to attend these exclusive events—while also supporting our partners—thanks to funding from Buffalo’s Give 716 campaign, hosted by the Buffalo Bills and Sabres Foundations.



PUBLIC ART

In 2024, ASI put out **three public calls for art**—thanks to generous funding from **New York State Assemblymember Jon D. Rivera**. Each project awarded **\$10,000 to a creative professional** to support their time, creativity, and the full realization of their vision in a public space. We believe in the power of public art to spark joy, conversation, and pride in our neighborhoods. At its core, the arts make us feel more human—they lift us up, help us understand each other, and create a stronger, more vibrant community. Research backs that up: nearly three-quarters of Americans say the arts help unify communities and deepen cultural understanding.



JFK PLAYGROUND, BLASDELL
Mural by *Girls Who Paint*

Allison Dunavant and Christine Crawford of Girls Who Paint brought new energy to Blasdell's JFK Playground with a vibrant mural celebrating local pride—from Ilio DiPaolo to the village's steelworking roots.



ISAÍAS GONZÁLEZ-SOTO LIBRARY
Mural by Angelee Vargas

Angelee Vargas was selected to create a storybook-style mural for the newly renovated González-Soto Library, honoring its namesake's legacy and celebrating the neighborhood's rich Puerto Rican heritage.



HART OF BUFFALO
Mural in Progress by Tyshaun Tyson

Tyshaun Tyson, AKA, Left Handed Bandit is bringing bold color and hometown pride to Hart of Buffalo with a new mural spelling out BUFFALO—each letter filled with imagery inspired by the Elmwood Village.



SOMALI BANTU CULTURAL CENTER
Mural by Edreys Wajed

Edreys Wajed's mural at 351 Grant Street honors Buffalo's Somali Bantu community, celebrating their culture, resilience, and new beginnings at their West Side community center.

ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6

In 2022, ASI partnered with **Americans for the Arts** as the official Western New York research lead for Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6)—the most comprehensive national study of its kind measuring the economic and social impact of the nonprofit arts sector.

This study revealed what we’ve long known to be true: arts and culture are not just amenities—they’re essential infrastructure. In Western New York alone, the arts generated **more than \$381.4 million in economic activity** in 2022, supporting **over 8,000 jobs** and contributing to both **community pride** and local economies.

To share these findings, we hosted conversations with funders, public officials, and cultural leaders at venues including the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, Jamestown Community College, and The Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, culminating in a public presentation at Shea’s 710 Theatre in February 2024 featuring Randy Cohen of Americans for the Arts.

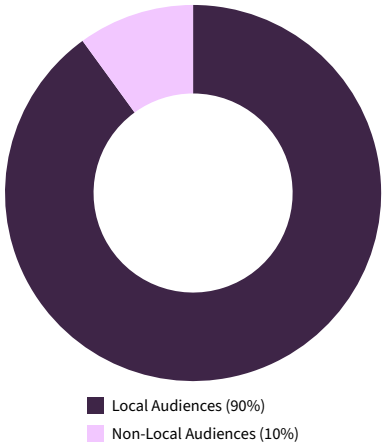
The data from AEP6 is already helping ASI—and arts leaders across the region—advocate for the arts as a driver of economic resilience, civic engagement, and community well-being.

When we invest in the arts, we invest in jobs, tourism, education, equity, and the soul of our region.

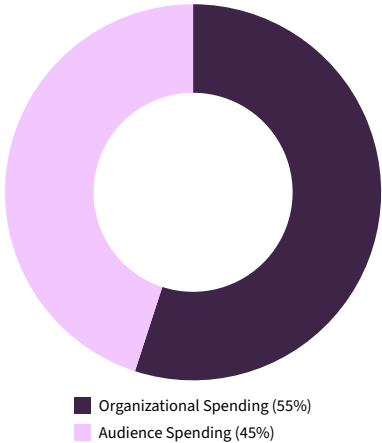


Americans for the Arts' Randy Cohen Presenting at Shea's 710 Theatre

AUDIENCE BREAKDOWN IN WNY



NATIONAL AVERAGE SPENDING SPLIT



ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6, Thank You

ASI extends its heartfelt thanks to the **152 nonprofit arts and culture organizations** that contributed to the AEP6 study by completing in-depth organizational surveys and/or facilitating on-site audience surveying at their events. Your time, effort, and transparency helped us produce a detailed, community-driven picture of how the arts power our region. This project would not have been possible without your partnership—and your willingness to share the vital work you do.

1891 Fredonia Opera House
710 Main Street
Adam Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Circle
African American Cultural Center of Buffalo
African American Veterans Monument
Ahira Hall Memorial Library
Allegany County Historical Society
Allentown Art Festival
Allentown Association
Alleyway Theatre
American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation
Amherst Symphony Orchestra Association
Angelica Community Radio
Aquarium of Niagara
Art for Rural America
Artpark & Company
Arts for Learning
Arts Services Inc.
Aurora Historical Society
Beau Fleuve Music & Arts
Bellissima Productions
Black Rock Historical Society
Blount Library
Boston Free Library
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Buffalo AKG Art Museum
Buffalo & Brandy
Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens
Buffalo Arts Studio
Buffalo Girlchoir
Buffalo Heritage Carousel
Buffalo History Museum
Buffalo International Film Festival
Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society
Buffalo Maritime Center
Buffalo Museum of Science
Buffalo Niagara Choirs
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Buffalo Opera Unlimited
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
Buffalo Presidential Center
Buffalo Society of Artists
Buffalo String Works
Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum
Buffalo United Artists
Buffalo-Lille Association
Buffalo's Own
Carnegie Art Center
Castellani Art Museum
Central Terminal Restoration Corp
CEPA Gallery

Charles E Burchfield Nature & Art Center
Chautauqua Community Music Project
Chautauqua Opera Company
Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra
Chautauqua Theater Company
Chinese Club of WNY
Colored Musicians Club
Community Music School
Concord Historical Society
Cuba Circulating Library
Cultural Alliance of Niagara
Darwin Martin House
DOPE Collective
Dunkirk Public Library
El Buen Amigo Latin American Cultural Assoc.
El Museo Francisco Oller Y Diego Rivera
Enlightenment Bookstore & Literary Arts Center
Explore & More Children's Museum
Explore Buffalo
Fenton History Center
Friends of Vienna
General Pulaski Association
Gowanda's Historic Hollywood Theatre
Graycliff Conservancy
Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra
Greater Buffalo Friends of Music
Greater Niagara Ballet Company
Griffis Sculpture Park
Hallwalls
Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum
Historical Association of Lewiston
Hull House Foundation
Infinity Visual & Performing Arts
Institute for Electronic Arts, Alfred University
Irish Classical Theatre Company
JazzBuffalo (Greater Buffalo Jazz Society)
Juneteenth Festival
Just Buffalo Literary Center
Kenan Center
Kleinhans Music Hall Management
Lake Shore Center for the Arts
Lewiston Choraleers
Lewiston Council on the Arts
Lockport Public Arts Council
Locust Street Art
Los Artistas del Barrio Buffalo
Lucille Ball Little Theatre
Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor
Middleport Community Choirs
Music is Art
MusicalFare Theatre
Neglia Ballet
Neto Hatinakwe Onkwehowe
Niagara Arts & Cultural Center
Niagara Celtic Heritage Society
Niagara County Historical Society

Niagara Falls Public Library
North Shore Arts Alliance
Old Fort Niagara Association
Opera-Lytes
Orchard Park Symphony Orchestra
Pappy Martin Legacy Jazz Collective
Penn Dixie Fossil Park & Nature Preserve
Polish Singers Alliance of America
Post-Industrial Productions of Buffalo
Power of Song
Preservation Buffalo Niagara
Raiders of Niagara
Red Blazers Men's Chorus
Reg Lenna Center for the Arts
Road Less Traveled Productions
Robert H. Jackson Center
Roger Tory Peterson Institute
Roycroft Campus Corporation
Salamanca Rail Museum Association
Second Generation Theatre Company
Shakespeare in Delaware Park
Shea's Performing Arts Center
Southern Tier Symphony
Spark Filmmakers Collaborative
Springville Center for the Arts
Squeaky Wheel Film & Media
Stained Glass Association of America
Starring Buffalo
Stitch Buffalo
The Big Easy in Buffalo
The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art
The Foundry (Net Positive)
The Fountain Arts Center
Theatre of Youth Company
Torn Space Theater
Tri-County Arts Council
Unique Theatre Company
University at Buffalo Center for the Arts
University Heights Arts Association
West Falls Center for the Arts
West Seneca Historical Society & Museum
Western New York Artists Groups
WNY Urban Arts Collective

Special thanks to our AEP6 sponsor:



ADVOCACY

At ASI, **we know the arts matter**—and now we have the data to prove it. With the AEP6 study highlighting the arts' economic impact in our region, our team used those numbers to strengthen our advocacy efforts locally and beyond. From community meetings to national initiatives, we championed policies that support artists and cultural organizations. Jen's appointment as **Co-Chair of ArtsNYS** also ensured Western New York had a strong voice in statewide funding and policy conversations.

STATEWIDE

ASI's Executive Director serves as the Co-Chair of ArtsNYS which provides a support network and source of information for the field, fosters relationships between arts and cultural leaders and those in other sectors, promotes inclusiveness, diversity, and accessibility, and leads state-wide advocacy efforts.

Jen attended and spoke at a **Legislative Arts Rally in Albany**, co-hosted by NYS Senator & Chair of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks & Recreation, Jose Serrano. This day included meeting over 10 NYS elected officials and sharing WNY's AEP6 economic impact. All of these efforts resulted in a resounding victory for the arts community, the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) **FY25 budget soared from the proposed \$50 million to an astonishing \$162 million.**

FEDERAL

ASI serves as the **New York State federal advocacy captain** (in partnership with Americans for the Arts), playing a crucial role in representing the state's arts community at the national level. In this capacity, ASI facilitates meetings between arts advocates and elected officials, ensuring that the voices of the arts community are heard and their concerns are addressed.

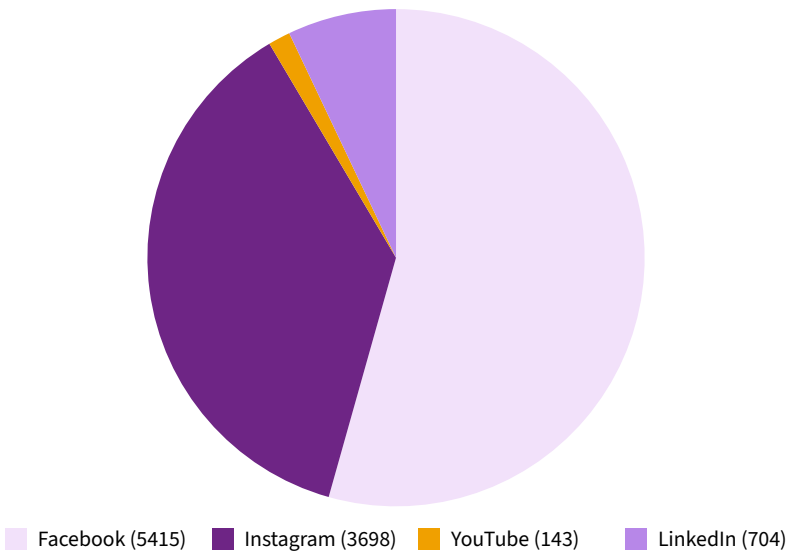
In May 2024, ASI coordinated meetings with NYS arts reps and federal elected officials to discuss National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding which resulted in an increased approved budget for both agencies in FY25.

REGIONAL

In 2024, ASI continued its local advocacy work, helping secure **Erie County cultural funding increases** for the seventh year in a row. Our annual **Budget Advocacy Workshop drew 31 attendees**, equipping arts leaders to engage with policymakers.

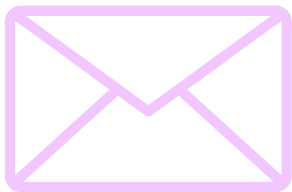
Later, ASI was tapped to lead new efforts—alongside Partnership for the *Public Good* and *Frontline Arts Buffalo*—to **hold the City of Buffalo accountable for its annual arts funding commitment**. These efforts reflect our continued push for sustained, equitable public investment in the arts.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

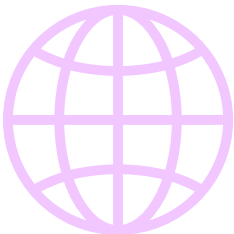


ASI’s social media and email newsletters remain **vital tools for amplifying our mission, sharing resources, and connecting with Western New York’s creative community.** Through platforms like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn, we engage a growing, diverse audience in real time —celebrating artist milestones, spotlighting grants, and promoting mission-aligned events. These channels foster authentic dialogue and often drive direct traffic to applications, blog posts, and event registrations.

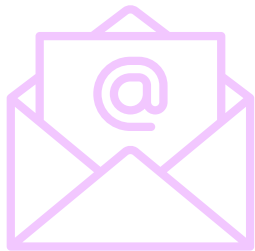
Meanwhile, our weekly and monthly e-newsletters deliver curated content with open rates well above industry average. This direct communication keeps our community informed with timely updates, reminders, and meaningful stories. Together, these tools help ASI reach thousands each month, strengthen visibility, and ensure our work remains accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the region’s needs.



3,091
NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS



32,000
WEBSITE VISITORS



46.3%
NEWSLETTER OPEN RATE

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to our many donors, contributors, and partners who continue to support our mission. Their assistance makes our opportunities and resources for the Western New York arts and cultural sector possible.

OUR MAJOR FUNDERS



**FUND
FOR THE
ARTS**



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

**Council on
the Arts**

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**
arts.gov



**NEW
YORK
STATE**

**Office of Children
and Family Services**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Give 716
Julian R. & Varue W. Oishei Foundation
M&T Charitable Foundation
Nero Philanthropic Foundation
Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation
NYS Assemblymember Jonathan D. Rivera
Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Arts & Culture Initiative
Rich Family Foundation
Rupp Foundation



OUR SUPPORTERS

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Amherst Bel Canto Choir
Anderson's Ice Cream
Bennett Schechter Arcuri and Will LLP
Bond, Schoeneck and King LLP
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ARTS SERVICES INC.

MISSION

Arts Services Inc. (ASI) empowers the region's artists and arts organizations with connections to funding, learning opportunities, and community access to the arts. We are a resource hub for the Western New York arts and cultural sector.

VISION

ASI envisions a region where inclusive creative communities are valued and visible, and where artists and arts organizations have access to the resources needed to advance and thrive.

At ASI, we firmly believe the arts belong to everyone. By creating opportunities with the arts, we're crafting a future where people of all backgrounds can connect and find community.



**Arts
Services**
INC

Arts Services Inc. (ASI)
2495 Main Street, #401
Buffalo, NY 14214
Website: asiwny.org
Phone: (716) 833-3004
Email: info@asiwny.org