



Young Audiences Western New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cynn timer Gaasch -- Young Audiences of Western New York Executive Director selected for arts education leadership roles

BUFFALO, NY (5/13/13) – Young Audiences of Western New York’s Executive Director, Cynn timer Gaasch, has been selected for two new leadership roles. Gaasch has been elected to President of the Young Audiences National Network’s *Executive Directors Council* and to participate in the National Guild for Community Arts Education’s *Community Arts Education Leadership Institute*.

The Young Audiences Network elected Gaasch to be president of the Executive Directors’ Council in April for a term of two years. As president of the Executive Directors Council, Gaasch will chair the council of the Young Audiences Network’s 32 Executive Directors and serve as a board member for Young Audiences, Inc.

“As President of the Council, I look forward to supporting the work of our national organization in expanding the abilities of each affiliate to provide quality services and workplaces in our many communities,” stated Gaasch.

The Young Audiences Network has 31 affiliates in the country and a national organization, which is celebrating 60 years of service in the United States this year. The Network includes leading providers such as CAPE in Chicago and Big Thought in Dallas. While Young Audiences of Western New York is among the smaller affiliates in the countrywide network, it is seen as one of the leaders in innovative, future thinking programming. Over the past year, as an active participant in the Council, Gaasch created an online peer learning community for the support staff of the National Network, serving the professional development of three different fields within the network, and a total of about 90 individuals.

Ms. Gaasch was accepted into the competitive *Community Arts Education Leadership Institute* offered annually for the second year this year for 25 current and emerging leaders in the field of arts education from across the country. In this program, Gaasch will participate in seven months of professional learning and a week long retreat at Bryn Mawr College with other participants and the field’s thought leaders this July 2013.

Gaasch explains, “This is an opportunity to expand my network in the next seven months, and learn from other thought leaders in the arts education field. I can’t wait to bring what I learn back to my colleagues here in Buffalo and Western New York.”

Young Audiences of Western New York is celebrating 50 years of service in 2013.

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES: *Young Audiences of Western New York’s mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. They provide services in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties. Every day, they fulfill their mission through performances, workshops, and residencies in educational, cultural and community centers.*

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