



# Young Audiences Western New York

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ARTS CONNECT ALL – SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES WORKING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS YOUTH WITH MUSIC AND VISUAL ARTS**

**BUFFALO, NY (04/16/2015)** – Young Audiences and Arts Partners for Learning are proud to support New York State Alliance for Arts Education (NYSAAE) in the presentation of the regional *Arts Connects All New York Saturday Symposium*.

The six-hour seminars are designed for arts specialists, inclusion and special education teachers, teaching artists, and administrators. They will focus on how the creation of and performance of art can be practically applied to curriculum and lesson-plan design for students with special needs.

**WHERE:** Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY

**WHEN:** May 9, 2015 from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm

**REGISTRATION:** Register today at [www.nysaae.org](http://www.nysaae.org) (\$35 general registration, \$30 for NYSAAE members, \$25 for Young Audiences teaching artists and Arts Partners for Learning partners, \$5 for students)

Each workshop will feature hands-on activities that connect directly to educators' practices. Participants will have opportunities to explore visual art and music education with nationally renowned specialists in the field and reflect with their peers about how their work connects with learning standards, including the Common Core State Standards and the National Core Arts Standards. Feature presenters include:

- **Gordon Sasaki**, visual artist and educator
- **Dr. Elise S. Sobol**, NYSSMA Chair, Music for Special Learners

Gordon Sasaki will present "Universal Design Approach to Visual Arts." Mr. Sasaki, an artist and wheelchair user, brings a unique combination of personal insight and academic training to his dynamic presentations and inclusive hands-on workshops. He has over 25 years of experience in arts and inclusion, teaching in universities, museums, public and private schools, including: VSA Arts, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, and the College Board. He is currently working at MoMA as a Community & Access educator, focusing on disabled and undeserved populations.

Dr. Elise S. Sobol will present "Bridging the Abstract by Connecting, Participating, and Music Performing." Dr. Sobol has taught elementary through high school in regular and special education settings. She serves on the faculties at NYU and Long Island University, while also teaching at the Nassau BOCES Department of Special Ed. An author of books and journal articles, she has been Chairperson Music for Special Learners for NY State School Music Association since 1993. Among her awards, she is the 2012 recipient of NYSSMA Distinguished Service Award for inclusive training of teachers and helping policy and practice for music in special education. In 2013-14, Elise was the ACANY Mentor for Long Island.

*Arts Connects All New York Saturday Symposium is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislator.*

*Arts Connects All New York Saturday Symposium is made possible by The Kennedy Center VSA.*

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## ARTS FOR LEARNING

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