



Young Audiences Western New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHONE: 716.881.0917 **EMAIL:** melissa@yawny.org

CONTACT: Melissa Kate

Young Audiences of Western New York Welcomes New Members to Board of Directors

BUFFALO, NY (8/12/13) Young Audiences of Western New York is proud to welcome Loraine Ingrasci, E.J. Snyder, and Michele Tucker to the Young Audiences Board of Directors. "As Young Audiences grows by providing more arts learning to kids and young adults in WNY, we need top professionals to support our staff and community outreach. Our newest members bring experience and dedication to an already great board," said Young Audiences board president, Anthony Billoni.

Loraine Ingrasci has an extensive history with the financial and business operations of local school districts. Ms. Ingrasci served as the assistant superintendent for finance and support services for the Grand Island Central School District, and business administrator for the Akron Central School District. "I am excited to join the Young Audiences Board of Directors," said Ms. Ingrasci. "Young Audiences is fast becoming a leading provider of arts-in-education services, and their mission rings clearly and loudly as a vital need in the school communities."

E.J. Snyder is an attorney with Harter Secrest & Emery LLP. He practices corporate law with a focus on mergers and acquisitions. He primarily represents private equity investment firms and their portfolio companies. His experience includes leading multi-specialty business transaction teams in large and mid-size corporate acquisitions and divestitures. He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Rochester, School of Engineering. "I am a strong believer in education and believe that the organization has an important mission in an atmosphere of tight school budgets where the arts always seem to be the first things considered for reductions," said Mr. Snyder. "I am hoping to have the chance to help out the organization in any way needed."

Michele Tucker, Manager of Human Resources at Tapecon, Inc., has a passion for the arts that stems from her own history as a mixed-media visual artist. Her work has been shown and sold through local channels, and her creative non-fiction has been featured at readings at The Screening Room and the Chautauqua Institution. "I can personally attest to the fact," Ms. Tucker states, "that getting involved with activities like music, theater, dance, writing and the visual arts can absolutely change the course of a young person's life. I'm extremely proud to be a part of the Young Audiences board, a truly worthy organization that's helping to illuminate and enrich the lives of young people throughout our community."

The board of directors for Young Audiences reflects the nature of the organization. It is a diverse board, with creative and business leaders, a range of ages, and a variety of community connections. Young Audiences maintains the commitment to developing the professional skills of its board members so they might best serve the community. As such, we also make a commitment to "young" board members, and 50% of our board are under the age of 35. This diversity strengthens our board in their commitment to and passion for the mission of Young Audiences.

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. Young Audiences of Western New York is one of 30 national affiliates from the parent organization, Young Audiences, Inc.*

ARTS FOR LEARNING

1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 881-0917 fax (716) 408-3279 info@yawny.org www.yawny.org

