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**ARTS PARTNERS FOR LEARNING WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS
TO LEADERSHIP TEAM**

BUFFALO, NY (7/15/13) – Arts Partners for Learning (APL) is welcoming five new leadership team members representing the arts, culture, and education in Western New York. They will join a team of other community leaders who advise the Arts Partners for Learning initiative in setting and attaining strategic goals. APL aims to expand access to arts and cultural education in Western New York. Incoming members include:

- Chris Brandjes, Actor and Associate Professor of Theater, Daemen College
- Kathleen Gaffney, Executive Director, Give For Greatness
- Kim Luce, Project Director, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Child & Adolescent Treatment Services
- Gay Molnar, Director of Development and Marketing, Aquarium of Niagara
- Kathy Gaye Shiroki, Curator of Museum Learning and Community Engagement, Burchfield Penney Art Center at Buffalo State College

They will join the Arts Partners for Learning Leadership Team which is comprised of representatives from the Albright Knox Art Gallery, Arts Services Initiative of Western New York, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Buffalo Public Schools, Buffalo Zoo, Castellani Art Museum, Cattaraugus Arts Council, Allegany, Cattaraugus, Erie, Wyoming BOCES, Erie 1 BOCES, Explore & More Children's Museum, Image Urban Arts, Lehrer Dance, Squeaky Wheel/ Buffalo Media Resources, Theatre of Youth, and Young Audiences of Western New York.

Arts Partners for Learning will support the implementation of new arts and cultural programs in schools throughout the eight counties of Western New York starting this Fall. The initiative provides professional development for arts and cultural organizations as well as school teachers at different times throughout the year. On November 15, Arts Partners for Learning will be partnering with Young Audiences of Western New York to host the Patricia Cotsen Arts Abilities conference providing professional development and networking opportunities for educators, artists, and cultural educators. More information about Arts Partners for Learning is available on its website at www.aplwny.org and its Facebook page www.facebook.com/aplwny.

Arts Partners for Learning is funded in part by New York State *Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*

ABOUT ARTS PARTNERS FOR LEARNING: Arts Partners for Learning is a regional partnership that was formed in 2011 with support from the Fund for the Arts, John R. Oishei Foundation, and Young Audiences, Inc. with the vision to create opportunities for arts and cultural organizations and professional artists to work with schools and ultimately improve the educational outcomes for children.

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