



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning

Western New York

For Immediate Release

For further information please contact
Palmer Davis, Program Director
palmer@yawny.org / 716-881-0917

**Young Audiences of Western New York
names new Executive Director**

Buffalo, NY, November 10, 2009 – Young Audiences of Western New York is pleased to announce the promotion of Cynn timer Gaasch to Executive Director. Gaasch took over the position of the local nonprofit arts-in-education organization when Helga MacKinnon, Executive Director for 12 years, retired on August 1, 2009.

While building on the organization's strengths, Ms. Gaasch has expanded the services Young Audiences offers the young people of Western New York. The organization has recently launched a **newly redesigned website** that offers expanded resources for educators and teaching artists. A new multidisciplinary residency based on the **Underground Railroad** is currently in development. Gaasch also conceived and launched two new afterschool residencies this year, both thirty to thirty-five weeks long. ***A Rhythm Runs Through It*** explores rhythm through dance, drumming, visual arts and yoga with special needs youth at a Buffalo Heritage Center. ***Keep it Moving!*** teaches several forms of dance as physical fitness.

Gaasch joined Young Audiences in 2003 and served in various capacities, including teaching artist. She left the staff to found Cynn timer Gaasch Grant Writing and Consulting in 2005. Her clients included American Institute of Architects Buffalo/WNY Chapter, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Buffalo ReUse, Somali Bantu Organization, and Buffalo First. Gaasch returned to Young Audiences as Director of Development in August of 2008.

She is a founder of Urban Roots Community Garden Center, the nation's first cooperative garden center, located around the corner from her home. In 2007, Gaasch appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle seated in her "tiny front garden" as a participant in Buffalo's renowned Garden Walk. She is the acting treasurer for Massachusetts Avenue Project, an organization that teaches urban youth entrepreneurial and leadership skills through gardening and food production. She was a recipient of Buffalo *Business First's Forty Under 40 Award* in 2008, and is co-chair of her Leadership Buffalo class.

A graduate of Hampshire College in Amherst, MA and a recipient of an MFA from American University in Washington, DC, she has been a gallery curator for the Olean Public Library, development & public relations coordinator for Young Audiences,

professor of art at SUNY Fredonia, and executive & artistic director of the Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts. As Arts Editor for Artvoice, Gaasch deciphered the visual arts for the community on a weekly basis.

Young Audiences of Western New York, Inc. (YA-WNY) is a not-for-profit arts-in-education organization dedicated to making 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.

Young Audiences programming is designed around the belief that an arts-rich education provides a child with the ability to look beyond facts and figures; to creatively meet new challenges as they arise. Plus, the arts make learning fun. Introducing curriculum-supportive, arts-based learning provides a varied and compelling environment--engaging even the most reluctant learners and giving day-dreamers a classroom as rich as their imagination.

Young Audiences of Western New York, Inc.
16 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, 716-881-0917, www.yawny.org, palmer@yawny.org