

# Young Audiences Western New York

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **YOUNG AUDIENCES WNY AWARDED ARTS FOR LEARNING GRANT MADE POSSIBLE BY JCPENNEY CARES \$300,000 AWARD TO YOUNG AUDIENCES, INC.**

**BUFFALO, NY** (January 28, 2015) – Young Audiences WNY has been awarded a \$17,500 **Arts for Learning** grant for in school arts integration programming with Holland Elementary and Buffalo Public School #95 Waterfront Elementary. The Arts for Learning initiative is made possible by JCPenney Cares and its customers who generously donated a portion of their transactions last August to benefit the arts in education.

**Arts for Learning (A4L)** is a groundbreaking literacy curriculum designed by Young Audiences, Inc. that has shown proven success in school districts across the country. The curriculum blends the creativity and discipline of the arts with learning science to support student achievement in reading and writing, and develop young people’s learning and life skills. The arts-integrated A4L Units provide students opportunities to excel in the classroom through activities that tap into a wide variety of skill sets and learning styles.

*“Over the past two years, I have seen, first hand, the strong, positive effects of arts integration on our region’s students. Students who are high need, low performing, and students who are English Language Learners are brought into the learning conversation through music, dance, visual and digital arts. At the same time, the arts challenge the high achieving students with creative problem solving and higher order thinking. Programs like A4L bring joy into the classroom and deepen our already strong relationships with partner schools.”* – Nancy Sterman, Director of Education, Young Audiences WNY.

Through the this grant, Young Audiences WNY is able to expand and support the implementation of A4L by receiving innovative, research-based tools and strategies that nurture high quality arts integration instruction. This initiative includes both professional learning opportunities for artists and teachers and implementation of the A4L curriculum.

Continuing long-term relationships with two schools, this year, the A4L Initiative partner with Holland Elementary and Buffalo’s Waterfront Elementary #95. Each site will expand their program to include more grade levels in fall 2015.

**ABOUT ARTS FOR LEARNING (A4L):** A4L was conceived in 2005 by Young Audiences, Inc. in partnership with the University of Washington, and with principal support for initial design, development and implementation provided by the Starr Foundation.

**ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES:** Young Audiences WNY’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 are an affiliate of the Young Audiences Arts for Learning Network of 30 affiliates across the country. They provide services in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties Young Audiences of Western New York celebrated 50 years of service in 2013.

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## ARTS FOR LEARNING

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