



# Young Audiences Western New York

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### “YOUNG AUDIENCES GOES TO TOWN” FUNDRAISER HONORS COMMUNITY ARTS LEADERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF ARTS EDUCATION

**Honorees:** **Gerald Mead**, independent curator, teaching artist, collector, and community leader; **Casimiro D. Rodriguez Sr.**, Chairman and founder, Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, Inc.; **Fay Northrop and Jerry McGuire**, Philanthropists and retired educators; **Edmund Cardoni and Cheryl Jackson**, Executive Director, Hallwalls, and artist and art teacher, Bennett Park Montessori Center School 32.

**BUFFALO, NY (04/01/2014)** – Young Audiences WNY is pleased to announce its annual “Goes To Town” fundraiser, a celebration to benefit arts education. The event takes place Wednesday, April 16, 2014 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at the Town Ballroom, 681 Main Street in Buffalo. All are welcome to join the area’s leading artists, educators, and philanthropists in celebration with a cocktail party, silent auction, and interactive arts experiences. The second half of the evening features music and dance with all star performances by Young Audiences artists, led by Van Taylor of Taylor Made Jazz.

The event is also a platform from which Young Audiences will hold its annual awards presentation, honoring outstanding achievement in the fields of arts and education. Our honorees in 2014 for outstanding achievement in the fields of art and education are:

**Edmund Cardoni and Cheryl Jackson** – Ed and Cheryl met in 1987, at Hallwalls, when Cheryl was hired part-time to coordinate Hallwalls’ arts education program in several Buffalo Public Schools, and Ed, not yet the executive director that he is today, was curating Fiction Diction, Hallwalls’ literature program. In 2000, Cheryl returned to teaching art in the Buffalo Public Schools. Both Cheryl and Ed—as life partners, as parents, as professionals, and as community activists—are passionate and outspoken advocates for the arts, artists, artistic freedom, arts funding, and public arts education for all children.

**Gerald Mead** – A highly regarded member of the arts community, for the last 30 years, Gerald has generously given of his time, talent, and resources to enhance the cultural life of our region. For artists, administrators, and educators, he is a valuable resource, willing collaborator and respected colleague. He has taught in the Design Department at SUNY Buffalo State since 1998, and he is one of the area’s most prominent art collectors.

**Fay Northrop and Jerry McGuire** – Fay was a public school teacher for 33 years at Lewiston-Porter Central School District. After his military service, Jerry worked in sales and marketing before settling on teaching. He taught high school business courses for 18 years before teaching General Science for three years. Together, Jerry and Fay are working on a collaborative project involving the Culinary Arts students at Buffalo State and the Martin House Restoration Corporation for May 2014.

**Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr.** – Mr. Rodriguez is retired from General Motors Corporation after 33 years. He founded Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, Inc., for which he is now chairman. He understands the value of education especially for underserved populations. He is a recipient of numerous awards for his dedication to the community in areas of education, health, social and economic development.

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## ARTS FOR LEARNING

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This annual fundraiser supports Young Audiences' schools based programs. These programs engage young people in creative learning with professional artists. Young Audiences is lead provider of arts-in-education programs in the eight counties of Western New York. Expanding to an ever-widening range of partners and venues, Young Audiences partners with schools, after-school programs, cultural organizations, human service agencies, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries.

**WHAT:** Young Audiences WNY's annual fundraiser, Goes to Town

**WHEN:** April 16, 2014 6:30-9:30 pm

**WHERE:** Town Ballroom, 681 Main Street, Buffalo, NY

**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$50 for general admission; \$150 for patrons; and \$200 for patron couples

**INFO:** <http://www.yawny.org/events/town>

The lead sponsors are The Buffalo News, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Buffalo Teachers Federation Inc., Computer Task Group, Current Catering, The Dance Camp, FabTech Carpet Care, Freed Maxick CPAs P.C., Harter, Secrest, & Emery LLP, Hyatt's All Things Creative, JCharlier Communication Design, M&T Bank, National Fuel, and Zenger Group.

***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.*

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