

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:** Katherine Loewen**PHONE:** 716.881.0917 **EMAIL:** [communications@yawny.org](mailto:communications@yawny.org)**YOUNG AUDIENCES RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT**

**BUFFALO, NY (March 25, 2015)** – Young Audiences has received a major gift from Suell Scott, sister of Young Audiences Master Teaching Artist, Reynold Scott. At the end of her life, Suell wanted to give to organizations that have a profound impact on children. She chose Young Audiences and donated a legacy gift.

Suell Scott had a strong historical tie to Young Audiences paired with a passion for the arts. Suell studied Linguistics at Stony Brook College and spoke several languages, allowing her to travel the world. Throughout her travels she pursued her artistic interest in photography. Her lens exclusively captured the artistic and varied styles of doors in Mexico, Colombia, Italy, as well as here in Buffalo, NY. Her first solo show, 51 Doorways, took place at Gallery 51 in 2006.

Rey remembers their mother, Elizabeth Scott, as part of the “old crew” of Young Audiences volunteers. Elizabeth was a math teacher and guidance counselor for Buffalo Public Schools, as well as an advocate for youth who struggled from poverty, a population Young Audiences now serves extensively. Suell’s gift is an extension of the family’s work towards Young Audiences’ mission.

*“We could not be more thrilled with Suell Scott’s generosity. Any mature non-for-profit aims to have several months of funds, surplus, in the bank. This donation helps us reach that goal, a goal we have had since 2010 (a difficult funding year that ate into our reserve),”* stated Cynnie Gaasch, Executive Director at Young Audiences. *“The fact that this gift comes from the family of one of our most outstanding and generous artists, Rey Scott, at a time when he’s getting ready to retire, makes it that much more meaningful. The Scott family is truly a significant contributor to the Young Audiences legacy in many ways.”*

*“There wouldn’t be life without music or art; they are essential to the body and soul.”* Rey says he always tells folks the facts about the arts and music: *“If you have an exam at 10 am and you go to a music class, your chances of doing well on that test are much greater (about 30% greater when I was in school) than if you had no arts exposure.”*

Rey Scott is a musician, recording artist, teacher, and composer. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of African American Studies at State University of New York at Buffalo, as well as a designated Master Teaching Artist for Young Audiences. He has performed around the world frequently with the renowned Sun Ra Arkestra, and he has also performed with TitoPuentes, Lionel Hampton, the New Brass Connection, Mack Rucks Ensemble, and the Gospel Jubilee.

Learn more about Young Audiences by visiting our website at [yawny.org](http://yawny.org).

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# Young Audiences Western New York

**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 celebrated 50 years of service in 2013.*

*Young Audiences' mission is made possible by private and public support including support from Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Children's Guild Foundation, Children's Foundation of Erie County, City of Buffalo and Buffalo City Council Members, Erie County, General Mills, JCPenney, John R. Oishei Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Council for the Humanities, New York State Council on the Arts, New York State Regional Economic Development Corporation, Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, Rupp Family Foundation, Target, The United Way, York Children's Foundation, and Young Audiences, Inc.*

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## ARTS FOR LEARNING

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

