Making the arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings.

Program Spotlight:
The Phonics Program: Alphabet Awareness

We were happy to celebrate with 80 Kindergarten students, their friends and families, the sounds and shapes of the alphabet through songs, American Sign Language and dance for The Phonics Program Showcase at Buffalo’s Waterfront Elementary School.

The Phonics Program has been offered by Young Audiences for more than 15 years, reaching over 4,000 children. By acknowledging that all students do not learn in the same way, or at the same rate, The Phonics Program addresses the needs of those students who struggle with the traditional approach to reading.
“The Phonics Program reaches out to grab learners of varying abilities. Linking the letter shapes and sounds to music and sign language helped my students to really have fun while they learned and engaged certain students who have struggled in the past.” - Kate Paolini, Assistant Principal at BPS #95 Waterfront Elementary.

It is multi-disciplinary program that utilizes kinesthetic learning. Students synthesize dance, song, and American Sign Language to master their sight and sound letter recognition. The classroom teacher and Young Audiences Teaching Artist leads the entire class in the corresponding visual art activity described in the accompanying curriculum book, which reinforces the songs. Students listen to the accompanying CD and sing along while working on the art project. Mastering songs for each vowel or consonant, the students practice and then perform for their school and families at each school.

Get Paid to Create!

We are looking to hire 10 youth apprentices, ages 14-18, who reside in Erie County and the City of Buffalo to participate in our Spring ArtWorks program.

ArtWorks gives students the opportunity to learn and practice essential 21st century career skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving, as well as the ability to think and work creatively with others.

Apprentices will meet 12 weeks during the Spring, beginning March 4 - May 30, 2019. Sessions are Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:00 - 6:00pm at Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Applications are due Friday, February 22, 2019 and can be found here. Check out photos from our Summer 2018 ArtWorks! ArtWorks is made possible with support from the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, New York State Council on the Arts, and the City of Buffalo.
Arts Partners for Learning Partners with Chautauqua Institution to Bring The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to Buffalo

Young Audiences is proud to announce a new partnership between Arts Partners for Learning and the Chautauqua Institution to bring the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to Buffalo to present a series of professional development sessions crafted specifically for Teaching Artists. Arts Partners for Learning is a collaboration between arts & cultural organizations throughout Western New York who provide arts in education programs to better serve our youth, led by Young Audiences of Western New York.

The first session focused on the philosophy and practice of teaching called arts integration. Kennedy Center Teaching Artist Sean Layne unpacked with us the definition and gave us the opportunity to uncover the characteristics of quality integration. In addition, the session included local examples of participation in arts-integrated lessons and examined how arts-integrated instruction aligns with current learning principles and best practices.

We're Hiring!

Young Audiences is looking to hire a part-time Program Assistant.

The Program Assistant will work closely with professional Teaching Artists, supporting partners, and teen-aged participants of our Most At Risk (M@Re) program in cooperation with Education & Evaluation Manager and other Young Audiences staff members.

Through Young Audiences of Western New York's partnership with Erie County's Departments of Youth Services, Probation, and Mental Health, the M@Re program
serves youth ages 13-17 who are at high risk of educational and societal failure. M@RE creates a safe setting that encourages youth to think and plan for their future with opportunities to engage in visual, literary, music and theatre arts and career building activities that provide positive outlets and alternatives to help them succeed.

Did You Know?

Erie County is home to 1,683 arts-related businesses that employ 8,884 people.

The creative industries account for 4% of the total number of businesses located in Erie County and 1.6% of the people they employ.

The creative industries are composed of arts businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theaters to for-profit film, architecture, and design companies. Arts businesses, and the creative people they employ, stimulate innovation and play an important role in building and sustaining economic vibrancy.

Nationally, 673,656 businesses are involved in the creation or distribution of the arts and they employ 3.48 million people.

This represents 4.0 percent of all U.S. businesses and 2.0 percent of all U.S. employees—demonstrating statistically that the arts are a formidable business presence and broadly distributed across our communities. Americans for the Arts has a complete breakdown of the Creative Industries in Erie County here.

We encourage all of you to get out and get involved. Recognize and celebrate the transformative power of the arts and arts education through activities that honor the efforts of teachers, artists, and cultural groups working to make the arts a crucial part of education in the lives of community members. Continue to share your stories about the impact and transformative power that the arts have on you and in your community.

This school year, we will be in classrooms, libraries, and community centers all across Western New York through assemblies, workshops, and long-term residency programs with professional Teaching Artists.

Every child deserves to participate in our programming will be immersed in opportunities to
imagine, create, and realize their full potential through the arts.

Please consider making a charitable donation today that will directly impact the lives of our youth. We cannot do it without you.

**Support Our Future Today**

We would like to thank our major funders

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