WHAT IS ARTWORKS?

ArtWorks is a life-changing experience for Erie County teens. The youth development initiative utilizes the power of the arts to transform young lives and enrich the community. For either 6 weeks during the summer, or 24 weeks after-school, high school students apprentice with professional artists to gain arts and employment skills, as well as college readiness.

Working in teams with a Master Teaching Artist, apprentices produce high-quality art and gain valuable experiences transferable to any future career.

Paid ArtWorks Apprentices:

- Gain important skills in problem solving, communication, leadership, responsibility, critical thinking, and collaboration.
- Visit local colleges to learn about admissions and financial aid processes.
- Give back to the community through creation, exhibition, and performance of original works of art at public venues.
- Learn to become creative and innovative participants in the 21st Century’s competitive economy.
ARTS EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ArtWorks addresses challenges and barriers to job connectivity, economic self-sufficiency, and access to resources for the most vulnerable populations in Erie County. These are youth who might have difficulty in attaining higher education and quality employment. ArtWorks takes the groundwork of outside-of-school-time learning and adds workforce development.

The result is a unique program where youth define futures through the arts, learning the diverse skills required for the evolving workplace. Collaborations provide apprentices opportunities to engage in discussions about post-secondary education and the workplace plus chances to network with local & regional artists, education and business leaders.
ArtWorks apprentices are given the opportunity to communicate and collaborate on various projects during each the summer and school-year programs. Each cohort focuses on a different art form and develops a final project, which they then display and present at a final celebration demonstrating their knowledge of the art processes and techniques.

Collaborations provide apprentices opportunities to engage in discussions about post-secondary education and the workplace plus chances to network with local & regional artists, education and business leaders. These professional development days give the youth opportunities to gain knowledge in the college admissions, scholarships, financial aid processes. Additional workshops and activities focus on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and include lessons on character building, financial literacy, creating resumes, and mock interviews.
PAST ARTWORKS PROGRAMS

SUMMER 2015
Book Arts - Western New York Book Arts Center (WNYBAC)
Media Arts - Apollo Media Center
Visual Arts - Jeremy Stock

Apprentices were split into 3 groups to learn hands-on skills in book arts, television production, and visual arts/painting.

SUMMER 2016
Book Arts - Western New York Book Arts Center (WNYBAC)
Media Arts - Apollo Media Center
Visual Arts - Jeremy Stock

Apprentices were split into 3 groups to learn hands-on skills in book arts, television production, and visual arts/painting.

SUMMER 2017
Puppetry - Stephanie Brash
Book Arts - Western New York Book Arts Center (WNYBAC)
Theatre - Melissa Kate

The apprentices culminated the summer with a marionette show, a book arts showcase, and a Longform Improvisation show.

SUMMER 2018
Photography - Aitina Fareed-Cooke

The apprentices completed the summer session with a showcase at Main Street Gallery to publicly present the photography works created by the apprentices.

SPRING 2019
Visual and Mural Art - Kristin Brandt

The apprentices culminated the semester with a celebration to unveil a mural that will travel to local libraries and schools, as well as an accompanying mural map of public art in Downtown Buffalo.

SUMMER 2019
Book Arts - Western New York Book Arts Center (WNYBAC)
Media Arts & Podcasts - Melissa Kate

The apprentices culminated the session with a showcase of book arts and podcast projects.
"I believe this program has influenced my educational and professional path, and has strengthened my communication, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. I created my first resume, participated in mock interviews, and attended a college fair that introduced me to my future college. I am proud to say that I will attend Medaille College in the fall for a double major of biology and criminal justice with a full scholarship. I am excited for my time in college and what my future will bring."

Elise, Artworks '17 and '19

Robin is currently a graduating senior attending Amherst Central High School. As a third time Artworks Apprentice, Robin has participated in the arts of photography, puppetry, and mural painting. She credits Artworks for helping her gain confidence with her communication and public speaking skills. She will attend Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall to pursue her dream of becoming a photographer for the National Geographic.
ArtWorks introduces our next generation to local businesses, higher education, creative professionals, and to civic leaders to engage in discussions about post-secondary education, the workplace, and the local economy. The goal of ArtWorks is to give youth the opportunity to recognize the high quality of life and amenities Erie County has to offer to want to live, work, and raise a family.

Young Audiences' office - ArtWorks main worksite - is centrally located in downtown Buffalo.

Teen Apprentices Have Participated: 130
Zip Codes Represented: 15
Schools Represented: 30
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Data collected since 2015

**Race/Ethnicity**

- Black/African American: 68.6%
- Hispanic/Latino: 7.8%
- White: 3.9%
- Asian: 3.9%
- 2+ Races: 15.7%

**Zip Codes Represented**

- 14201
- 14204
- 14207
- 14208
- 14209
- 14210
- 14211
- 14212
- 14213
- 14214
- 14215
- 14216
- 14220
- 14226

74% City of Buffalo Residents
**Schools Represented:**

Amherst Central High School  
Buffalo Academy of Visual & Performing Arts  
Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School  
Buffalo School of Culinary Arts  
Buffalo United Charter School  
Charter School for Applied Technologies  
Cheektowaga Central High School  
City Honors School  
Emerson School of Hospitality  
Hutchinson Central Technical High School  
International Preparatory School  
King Center Charter School  
Leonardo da Vinci High School  
Lewis J. Bennett School of Innovative Technology  
Western New York Maritime Charter School  
Math, Science, Technology Preparatory School  
McKinley High School  
Nardin Academy  
Nichols School  
South Park High School  
Tapestry Charter School
EVALUATION

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

All apprentices go through an application and interview process with Young Audiences staff. 100% of teens are given a resume and mock interview workshop and leave the program with their own resume. All apprentices also learn how to shake hands, make eye contact with adults, and explain their work in a professional manner.

- 85% of apprentices reported that ArtWorks was their first job.
- 93% of apprentices agree that ArtWorks taught them skills that would help them find and get a job.
- 88% agreed that working for the ArtWorks program will help them perform better at a future job.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

A majority of youth participants have reported that they were leaving the ArtWorks program with new attitudes, behaviors, and skills. Specifically related to work-readiness, professional development, post-secondary education, and life skills, the top areas of gain reported by apprentices have included:

- Budgeting and savings behavior;
- Increased knowledge regarding college admissions and financial aid;
- Identity development and recognition of themselves as artists; and
- An increased knowledge of careers, especially as related to creative fields of employment.
Why Support ArtWorks?

As a supporter for ArtWorks, you will provide the funds necessary to ensure the longevity of the program for our youth.

In addition to the tangible benefits outlined below, your generosity is an investment to Western New York’s next generation of leaders, who otherwise might not have the opportunity to earn a wage while learning key job and life skills. Together, we can make creative arts experiences possible for all youth living in and around our communities.

Advantages of Your Support Include:

- Exposure to our many partners – over 4,000 educators, networks, patrons, and families – in Western New York.
- Opportunities to develop and build brand awareness.
- Acknowledgement on our social media pages, e-newsletters, at the ArtWorks end-of-program celebration and in brochures distributed to the public.
- Exposure through Young Audiences, Inc., the nation’s largest arts-in-education organization, in its annual report, distributed to 32 communities nationwide.

Benefits of Your Contribution:

$10,000
- Can fund 20 youth Apprentice stipends for an entire after-school semester.

$5,000
- Can fund 1 Master Teaching Artist for an entire after-school semester.

$2,500
- Can fund 1 Apprentice stipend, meals, and supplies for an entire school year.

$1,000
- Can fund lunch for the apprentices during the summer session.

$500
- Can fund an Apprentice’s stipend for an entire after-school semester.

$250
- Can provide uniforms for an entire summer cohort of apprentices.
- Can also provide transportation to essential off-site field trips to local colleges, cultural institutions, and businesses.
Our Major Supporters

Our Partners

- Albright-Knox Art Gallery
- Alleyway Theatre
- Apollo Media Center
- Boomerang’s Bar & Grill
- Bryan & Stratton College
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
- Buffalo Metropolitan Federal Credit Union
- Buffalo City Hall
- Buffalo State College
- Burchfield Penney Art Center
- Canisius College
- Cornell University ILR School Fellowships
- Current Catering Hospitality Group
- Darwin Martin House
- Delaware North
- D’Youville College
- Eat Smart NY
- Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center
- Hyatt’s All Things Creative
- Junior Achievement
- Locust Street Art
- Main Street Gallery
- Medaille College
- Niagara County Community College
- Say Yes Buffalo
- Shea’s Performing Arts Center
- Sugar City
- Tops Friendly Markets
- Trocaire College
- Matt Urban Hope Center
- M&T Bank
- Wegmans
- Western New York Book Arts Center
- Westminster Economic Development Initiative

Thank you!

ArtWorks would not be successful without the support of ALL of our many community partners and funders