



Council on the Arts

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, March 5, 2020

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THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AWARDS \$670,000 TO WESTERN NEW YORK TO SUPPORT CULTURAL PROGRAMS ESSENTIAL TO NEW YORK STATE'S GROWTH AND VITALITY

NYSCA GRANTS TO THE REGION TOTAL \$3M OVER THE NEXT YEAR TO MUSEUMS, PERFORMING ARTS COMPANIES, ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND COMMUNITY-BASED CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Buffalo, New York—The New York State Council on the Arts today announced a total of \$2.92M awarded through over 100 grants to WNY arts and cultural organizations, including \$2.25M in grants for FY2020 and an additional \$670,720 in multi-year funding renewals for FY2021. Awarded through NYSCA's 15 Programs and the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative, these grants will support a broad spectrum of New York's vast cultural sector, from community-based organizations to pillars of international tourism.

"NYSCA support builds on New York's \$120 billion cultural sector, which plays a catalytic role in our state," **said Mara Manus, Executive Director, New York State Council on the Arts.** "From community-based arts education programs to globally recognized architecture and museums, Western New York's thriving cultural ecosystem is critical to the health and growth of the region."

NYSCA's Western New York grantees represent a broad ecology of a healthy cultural sector. Recent grantees range from community libraries and newly-founded arts education programs to a museum and an orchestra with national stature and more than one hundred years of history as cultural touchstones of the region.

NYSCA's support for Western New York's cultural sector promotes the growth of The New Buffalo as a world-class tourist destination and a vibrant place to live, work, and launch a business, key components of Governor Cuomo's Buffalo Billion initiative.

Notable 2020 NYSCA support initiatives to stimulate growth and community revitalization in the region and statewide through Governor Cuomo's REDC initiative include:

- NYSCA has expanded its **Workforce Investment and Development** grantmaking to a total of \$4.2 million – nearly a \$1 million increase from 2019 – for the creation or expansion of more than 130 jobs and workforce training programs, including two-

year grants supporting new, sustainable jobs in arts management, production and artmaking, and fellowships for underserved communities.

- **New \$100,000 REDC Arts Impact Awards** expand 8 signature NYS public art events and festivals that draw millions. These innovative, collaborative projects create unique experiences coveted by New York residents and visitors and provide an infusion of revenue to local businesses. Three of the eight impact award recipients are based in Western New York, including Powerful Niagara, an expansion of the Strawberry Moon Festival at Artpark; Just Buffalo Literary Center's The Civil Writes Project, and Torn Space Theater's Neighborhood. Details are below.
- **NYSCA's Mid-Size Capital Fund** awarded \$2.1M to 18 projects, bringing NYSCA's total support for capital funding over three years to \$30 million to 89 projects across all REDC regions – including 60% outside of New York City. NYSCA has awarded a total of \$2.6M in 10 capital funding awards to Western New York organizations such as the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Roycroft Campus Corporation, and Niagara Art and Cultural Center.

In Western New York, grantees receiving support include:

- [Buffalo String Works](#) – Providing refugee children age 5 to 12 free after-school music instruction, building essential social and communication skills and supporting students' development into engaged citizens. In an area among the largest centers of resettled refugees and asylum seekers in the nation, BSW uses music to transcend language barriers, create a home for students and their families, and build a bridge to the greater Buffalo community.
- [Albright-Knox Art Gallery](#) – Buffalo's world-class contemporary art museum will double its exhibition space and increase its economic impact by 30% through its historic expansion by OMA Principal and Design Architect Shohei Shigematsu. The museum's new Albright-Knox Northland space opened in January to present new exhibitions while under construction.
- [Just Buffalo Literary Center](#) – Recognized as one of the nation's top literary centers, Just Buffalo supports the development of student literacy and presents world-renowned authors to Buffalo through its BABEL series. In 2020, with the support of a NYSCA REDC Arts Impact Award, the center will spearhead The Civil Writes Project, a large-scale public art and engagement project with emphasis on local African American voices. More than 1 million will be served through readings, workshops, hands-on activities, and public art in venues such as community gardens, little libraries, the Reading Park, and tutoring centers.
- [Torn Space Theater](#) – The forward-thinking theater company will expand on its site-specific, immersive performances at Silo City with Neighborhood, a community-wide participatory festival that re-imagines the underserved Broadway/Fillmore neighborhood in Buffalo's East Side as a vast performance space. With NYSCA REDC Impact Award support, TST will use light, video mapping, and sound design to activate the area's architecturally significant assets such as The Central Train Terminal and St. Stanislaus Church and support its revitalization.

- **Powerful Niagara**, a major collaboration between Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) and Jon Lehrer Dance Company (JLDC) culminating in a live performance with more than 100 dancers at Artpark. Over 100 dancers will perform with full orchestra on the site of a restored masterpiece, Niagara '79, by Gene Davis as a culmination of the Strawberry Moon Festival. For this unique performance, BPO's Joann Falletta is creating a music program honoring Native American traditions, the power of the Falls, and the area's rich cultural, natural, and historic assets.

A complete list of Western New York FY20 and FY21 grantees to date is attached.

NYSCA will award a total of \$43.8M in FY2020 grants to support over 2,500 cultural organizations and artists in all 62 state counties.

NYSCA grant recipients include museums, theaters, arts education providers, workforce development initiatives and creative programs providing vital services to underserved populations. NYSCA grantees include tourism anchors in all regions of the state, drawing a total of 150 million visits in 2019.

Additional FY21 grantees will be announced in July, September, and December.

A searchable database of all NYSCA FY20 grants is available [on the NYSCA website](#).

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The New York State Council on the Arts preserves and advances the arts and culture that make New York State an exceptional place to live, work and visit.

NYSCA upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development and quality of life. Through its core grantmaking activity, NYSCA awarded \$43.8M in FY2020 to 2,500 organizations statewide through direct grants and regrants in our 15 programs, the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative and the Mid-Size Capital Project Fund. NYSCA funding supports the visual, literary, media and performing arts and includes dedicated support for arts education and underserved communities. NYSCA further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources.

Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960, and continued and expanded to the present day with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, NYSCA is an agency of the Executive Branch of the New York State Government. For more information on NYSCA, please visit www.arts.ny.gov, and follow NYSCA's [Facebook](#) page, Twitter [@NYSCArts](#) and Instagram [@NYSCouncilontheArts](#).