



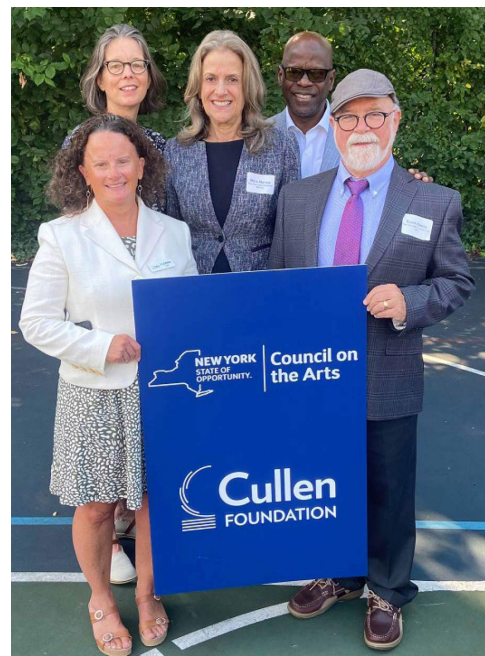
\$277,959 in Grants

Cullen Foundation and New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) awarded 65 WNY Nonprofits with Expanding Access to Arts Funding Grants! On August 25th, West Side Community Services hosted Cullen & NYSCA's press announcement where grantee representatives, elected officials and community stakeholders celebrated the diverse, thoughtful arts programs designed by the grantees to serve their constituents. One goal of this special "regrant" opportunity was to explore new ways to advance arts programming to new and underserved audiences.

The grant winners hail from Allegany, Cattaraugus, Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, and Wyoming Counties and offer varied programs that include Indigenous arts, Native visions programs, Refugee, Immigrant and Black Farmers' Heritage programs, school art and mentor programs, theatre, festival, music, fashion, sculpture, mural programs, and many more!

**Florine Luhr, President
Cullen Foundation**

"The expanded eligibility of this special arts funding allowed us to seek a broader group of nonprofit applicants who thought creatively about new, arts-focused programs that will enrich the lives of their clients," Luhr stated. "We're optimistic that a longer-range outcome of this program will be partnership-driven arts programming targeting new and diverse audiences from the neighborhood level to a larger, regional scale."



Cullen and NYSCA Leadership



**Friends, Inc
Jetaun Jones
Executive Director**

"This grant from NYSCA and the Cullen Foundation allows Friends, Inc. at Dorothy J Collier Community Center to offer a unique arts program to East Buffalo youth, introducing them to the discipline of fashion and enabling them to discover how art influences fashion," Jones stated. "Our 'Fashion Camp for Kids' program will provide participants with a head start in the fashion industry, hone their entrepreneurial skills, and more."

Left to Right: Jetaun Jones, Executive Director of Friends, Inc., Mara Manus, Executive Director of NYSCA

**Crystal Selk, Executive Director
West Side Community Services**

"We are grateful to the Cullen Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts for their support of our Arts for All program," Selk stated. "This funding will allow us to bring professional teaching artists from Young Audiences of Western New York into our after-school and teen programs to help our kids explore artistic expression in the areas of fashion, hip hop, dance, and recycled materials art. We strongly believe that all people, and especially young people, benefit from hands-on, long-term art education and we can't wait to see their creativity flourish."



Left to Right: Crystal Selk, Executive Director of West Side Community Services, Mara Manus, Executive Director of NYSCA



Left to Right (front): Scott Eberle, NYSCA Council Member, Florine Luhr, Cullen Foundation President, Mara Manus, Executive Director of NYSCA, Monica Angle, NYSCA Council Member
Left to Right (back): NYS Senator Sean M. Ryan (D-60), Larry Cook, NYSCA Council Member, NYS Assembly Member William Conrad (D-140), NYS Assembly Member Jonathan D. Rivera (D-149)

Recipient Highlights

Providence Farm Collective

Project Name: *Preserving & Sharing Refugee, Immigrant & Black Farmers' Culture, Tradition & History through Arts*

The project will result in an exhibition and book that use various forms of art and storytelling to catalog the cultural importance of food to the communities. The project will improve equitable representation in the local arts sector, helping a diverse community of intergenerational refugee, immigrant and Black participants engage in art, be seen as artists within their immediate community, and extend their presence and voices into the wider art community.

The project will create life-sized cyanotype farm family portraits in fall 2022. Families will lay themselves and their crops on light sensitive fabric. The fabrics will hold a relief image of the families and symbols of farm life. The images will be exhibited and be the symbolic starting point for the larger project.



Neto Hatinakwe Onkwehowe, Inc.

Project Name: *Native Visions*

Neto will exhibit a show of Native American art work at the Unity Gallery on Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14216, September - October 31 2022. Neto will also set up Native American art and cultural events to display Native American art and traditional wampum belts that have been made by Native American artists. The cultural events will take place during the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023.

These events will be held at Cattaraugus Seneca territory and Tuscarora territory and in the urban cities of Niagara Falls and Buffalo. Neto attended and set up at these events pre-pandemic and now hopes to re-engage with their communities. This project impacts the local art scene by allowing people to see authentic Native American art from a truly underserved community.

Rural Outreach Center

Project Name: *ROC'n Creation Station*

This project will provide opportunities for rural families to learn about and engage in the creation of fine arts. Opportunities to experience art culture in rural areas are limited by both geographic and financial accessibility. All the families engaged with The Rural Outreach Center are living in poverty and this project, ROC'n Creation Station, will provide them with the opportunity to experience fine arts regardless of these barriers.

As a part of this 8-week experience, our rural families will be invited to take part in a 2-hour arts education and creation experience that will incorporate a different medium of fine arts each week. These sessions will include painting, sculpture, drawing, jewelry making, and textiles. This 8-week experience will culminate in a community art show that will celebrate our families' creations and bring awareness to the importance of fine art experiences. Families will also be invited to take part in a day trip to one of Buffalo's art galleries where they will have the chance to learn about and engage with the rich art culture that Buffalo has to offer.



Expanding Access to Arts Funding in Western New York Grantee Recipients

Accessible Academics USA, Inc.
Alfred Farmers Market
Allegany County Area Foundation
Amherst Chamber Ensembles Inc.
Black Rock Historical Society
Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, Inc.
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Cattaraugus Free Library
Central Terminal Restoration Corp.
Central Cultural Italiano di Buffalo
Chautauqua Regional Youth Symphony
ChildCare Network of the Niagara Frontier, Inc.
Chinese Club of Western New York
City Years, Inc.
Community Canvases
Community Missions of Niagara
Cradle Beach
Crossborder Tourism and Recreation Alliance
Cattaraugus Rail Trail Inc.
Family Promise of Western New York
Fillmore Forward
Friends Inc.
Genesis House of Olean, Inc.
Gigi's Playhouse
Girls on the Run of Buffalo, Inc.
GOBike Buffalo
Grassroots Gardens of Western New York
Green Springsville, Inc.
Highland Clubhouse
Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, Inc.
Historic Palace Theatre
Hill House Foundation
Inclusive Theatre of WNY at St. Mary's High School

India Association of Buffalo
Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo
Journey's End Refugee Services
Karen Society of Buffalo
Knights Creek Evangelical Methodist Church
Lakewood Memorial Library
Music To Remember WNY, Inc.
Neto Hatinakwe Onkwehowe, Inc.
Niagara Falls Junior Youth Organization
Niagara Falls Public Library
Omega Mentoring Program
Perry Public Library
Power of Song, Inc.
Providence Farm Collective Corp
Response to Love Center
River Rock Community Coalition, Inc.
Rural Outreach Center
Salamanca Public Library
Self Advocacy Association of NYS
Sensational Fun, Inc.
Springville Youth Incorporated
WEDJ Buffalo
West Side Community Services, Inc.
Western New York Artists Group