



Buffalo Arts and Culture Organizations

PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE



237 Main Street | Buffalo, NY 14203-2719

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ORGANIZATIONS

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBERS	WEBSITE INFORMATION	CONTACT NAME, POSITION & EMAIL	MISSION & SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITMENT
Albright Knox Art Gallery	1285 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222-1096	Main: 882-8700 312-320-1165	albrightknox.org	Aaron Ott, Public Art Curator ottart@gmail.com	This world-renowned gallery is committed to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of contemporary and modern art. It is the largest gallery in Buffalo, promoting the interpretation of artistic impressions of our times through a wide range of mediums both inside the gallery and outside on the grounds facing Delaware Lake. The gallery strives to illuminate social injustices by curating artwork that is not only accessible, but also influences its audience.
African American Cultural Center	1285 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14209	884-2013	aacbuffalo.org	Agnes M. Bain, Executive Director agnes@wzrd.com	This center was founded on a vision of being a cultural and spiritual sanctuary where people learn and celebrate the African- American experience through artistic expression. With an emphasis on the development of young people, the many programs and services aim to motivate personal growth, stimulate untapped potential, and promote cultural diversity.
Artfarms Buffalo	Matt Urban Center 1081 Broadway Buffalo, NY 14212	450-5888	Artfarms.org	Sarah Maurer, Communications Director sarahmaurer@artfarms.org	In this approach to redeveloping vacant land on the East side of Buffalo through the use of functional artm land repurposing efforts are enhanced through coordination with a larger cultural perspective. East side food growers are paired with local artists to produce creative urban farm space.

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Arts Services Initiative	95 Perry St., Suite 402 Buffalo, NY 14203	362-8389	asiwny.org	Tod A. Kniazuk, Director asiwnydirector@gmail.com	ASI is a funding and policy advocate for the local arts community, with the goal of impacting the region's economy, quality of life, and national reputation. Collaborative efforts bring artists and organizations together, and trainings build capacity and impact.
Buffalo History Museum	One Museum Court Buffalo, NY 14216	873-9644	buffalohistory.org	Melissa Brown, Executive Director 873-9644 X302 rcarina@buffalohistory.org	Founded in 1862 and formerly known as the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, it is dedicated to telling the diverse stories of WNY to give meaning to our past. Through innovative programming, partnerships and collaborations, the Museum seeks to share, preserve, and add to our unique heritage. .
Buffalo Arts Studio	Tri-Main Center 2495 Main St. Suite 500 Buffalo, NY 14214	833-4450	buffaloartsstudio.org	Alma Carrillo, Executive Director 833-4450 X10	This organization is devoted to providing affordable studio space and regular public exposure for artists and exhibitions. They seek to enrich the community through classes, programs, and public art. Their Jump Start program empowers youth to explore an interest in art, develop a portfolio, and prepare for a college career.
Buffalo Infringement Festival		408-0499		Kurt Schneiderman theredkurt_14202@yahoo.com	Similar to Infringement Festivals in other cities around the US, this festival promotes alternative, experimental, and controversial art (visual, performing, musical, media) through an annual 11 day festival in the historic Allentown District of Buffalo. The festival is committed to art with a purpose and art for the diverse public.

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Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra	3 Symphony Circle Buffalo, NY 14201 Administrative office: 499 Franklin St. Buffalo, NY 14202	885-5000 885-0331	bpo.org	Daniel Hart, Executive Director dhart@bpo.org Robin Parkinson, Director of Education & Community Engagement rparkinson@bpo.org	The BPO seeks to enrich the quality of life in WNY through live symphonic music and other musical events, educate and entertain a diverse audience, and expand musical opportunities for youth and other groups. Kleinhan's Music Hall is the permanent home for the BPO. Their West Side Connection program serves the West side population of recent and past immigrants from diverse countries.
Buffalo Public Schools, Arts Education Department	450 Masten Ave. Room 208 Buffalo, NY 14204	816-3601	buffaloschools.org	Michelle Agosto, Supervisor magosto@buffaloschools.org	The Arts Department seeks to encourage and cultivate in students a life-long love, respect and appreciation of the visual arts. Many educational pursuits are related to enhancing the students' understanding of cultural events through art. The Arts Department also provides a platform for the integration of the arts with the district's democratic values of equal opportunity and justice.
Buffalo State College, Arts Education Department	103 Bishop Hall 1300 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222	878-4106	arteducation.buffalostate.edu	Michael Parks, Chair and Professor parksme@buffalostate.edu Anna Kay France France@buffalo.edu	Buffalo State seeks to promote the education of students about art in meaningful and critical ways, as well as being sensitive to issues related to diversity and to promote the value of art in contemporary cultures.
Buffalo United Artists	P.O. Box 687 Buffalo, NY 14205	886-9239	buffalobua.org	Javier Bustillos, Director Javier@buffalo.edu buffalobua@gmail.com	BUA is a collective of professional theater artists playing an active and visible role in service to the community. Productions include controversial topics and convey a message that needs to be heard. BUA uses theater as a vehicle for social change, outreach, and a means of communicating the human experience.

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Burchfield Penney Arts Center	1300 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222	878-6011	burchfieldpenney.org	<p>Scott Propeack, Associate Director, Chief Curator propeasf@buffalostate.edu</p> <p>Renata Toney, Community Engagement and Public Relations Specialist toneyrr@buffalostate.edu</p>	The Center is dedicated to the art and vision of Charles E. Burchfield and other artists of WNY. Affiliated with SUNY Buffalo, the Center seeks to promote meaningful experiences to enhance culture and the environment through people's actions and decisions. It uses art to be a catalyst for cultural vitality and creativity in W.N.Y.
<p>CEPA (Contemporary Photography & Visual Arts Center)</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p>Big Orbit Gallery (merged organizations)</p>	<p>617 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203</p> <p>30D Essex St. Buffalo, NY 14213</p>	<p>856-2717</p> <p>712-4355</p>	<p>cepagallery.org</p>	<p>Sean Donaher, Executive Director Sean@depagallery.org</p>	<p>CEPA is dedicated to photo-related and electronic arts with programs to provide working artists, urban youth and others with the necessary facilities for producing contemporary art. It is one of the oldest and largest not-for-profit based arts centers in the U.S.</p> <p>Big Orbit is an artist-run arts center (visual, performance, media arts), dedicated to transcultural and multidisciplinary exploration of contemporary art issues through the promotion of WNY art and artists. They seek to educate the public on what is breaking ground in the visual arts.</p>
Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo	145 Broadway Buffalo, NY 14203		coloredmusicians.club.org	<p>George Scott, Board President gscott2679@aol.com</p>	Originally formed in 1935, this jazz club has been devoted to practice, rehearsal, performance and union space for African-American jazz musicians. It is a historical preservation site and the only remaining African-American club of its kind in the U.S. It encourages the research and preservation of WNY jazz history.

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ELAB (Emerging Leaders in the Arts Buffalo)		218-8525	elabuffalo.com	Tara B. Sasiadek, President Dana Saylor, Vice President saylordana@gmail.com elabuffalo@gmail.com	This is a local chapter of Americans for the Arts, with a mission to cultivate the next generation of arts managers, patrons, and artists by connecting emerging talent with skill building and leadership development. They serve as “creative placemakers” for the region through events, workshops, education, and community projects.
El Buen Amigo and Latin American Cultural Association	114 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14201	885-6343	elbuenamigo.org	Santiago Mesferren, Director lacanewyork@yahoo.com	An art gallery, fair trade store, and community center, dedicated to artists/arts of Central and South America, as well as the WNY Latino community. They promote cross-cultural understanding and social justice through programs and exhibits, such as fair trade information workshops, a campaign to end human trafficking, and a history of human and environmental rights mural project.
El Museo	91 Allen St. Buffalo, NY 14202	578-3782 Gallery: 464-4692	elmuseobuffalo.org	Craig Centrie, Ph.D., Executive Director ELMUSEO@mail.com	This venue exhibits contemporary fine art by artists of color (Latino, African American, Native American, Asian, and Caribbean). They reach out to Buffalo’s immigrant/refugee community to support their mission of promoting multiculturalism in art.
Elmwood Avenue Festival of the Arts			Elmwoodartfest.org	Joe DiPasquale, Chair, directoreafa@aol.com	Their mission is to foster growth in and awareness of WNY’s artistic and cultural treasures and improve the fabric of Buffalo’s unique urban environment in an environmentally sustainable manner. The festival is a family-friendly event, held each August, which promotes grassroots organizations committed to positive community impact.

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The Foundry Buffalo NY	298 Northhampton St. Buffalo, NY 14208	220-8842	thefoundrybuffalo.org	Megan McNally, Ex. Dir. megan.mcnally@gmail.com	This organization is a business incubator for artists, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, with an emphasis on impacting neighborhoods in a positive way. It provides community space for arts performances, education, and public gatherings, workshop and office space for artists, artisans, tradespeople, and small businesses, and is a neighborhood anchor for artistic expression, creative exchanges, and encouragement of new ideas and productive community action. One tenant, One World Threads is a sewing/fabric arts school and small business incubator, helping immigrants and refugees develop skills and launch small businesses.
Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance (GBCA)			Greaterbuffaloculturalalliance.com	Laurie Dean Torrell, Co-Chair ldcant@justbuffalo.org Randall Kramer, Co-Chair rkramer@daemen.edu	This is an advocacy, awareness, and policy-developing alliance of many local arts organizations, working to position the arts, culture and creativity as critical community assets for public/private investment and engagement.
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center	341 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202	854-1694	Hallwalls.org	Ed Cardoni, Executive Director Ed@hallwalls.org	This center, located in a former church which was rehabilitated for use by Ani DiFranco, is dedicated to a mission of extending the boundaries of various art forms (painting, sculpting, conceptual art, experimental and documentary film, video art and activism, performance, jazz/new music). They promote the right of freedom of expression in art and explore current issues in the arts and society.

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Hispanic Heritage Council	P.O.Box 361 Buffalo, NY 14201	401-1442	Hispanicheritagewny.org	Casimiro D. Rodriguez Sr., Director cdr3455@gmail.com	This council is dedicated to creating and supporting the role of the Hispanic community and its contributions to WNY through various community, musical, and Hispanic heritage events.
Just Buffalo Literacy Center	Program Office: 468 Washington St. Buffalo, N.Y. 14203 Administrative Office: 617 Main St. #202A Buffalo, N.Y. 14203	861-9985 832-5400	justbuffalo.org	Laurie Dean Torrell, Executive Director Ldeant@justbuffalo.org	This center is committed to the love of reading, the art of writing, and the power of the literary arts to transform lives and communities. They have brought world-renowned writers to Buffalo, hosted poetry events, and support the development of young writers. Just Buffalo often partners with organizations that focus on social justice activism to promote cultural awareness.
Locust Street Art	138 Locust St. Buffalo, NY 14204	852-4562	Locuststreetart.org	Liz Van Verth, Executive Director director@locuststreetart.org	This organization provides free or low-cost art classes for anyone, especially low-income and minority youth and adults, in order to develop their talents and skills in the visual arts. In addition to classes, they provide movie screenings, workshops, a digital lab, and exhibitions.
Frank E. Merriweather Library	1324 Jefferson Ave. Buffalo, NY 14208	883-4418		Sandra Bush-Williams bushs@buffalolib.org	This is a branch of the Buffalo Public Library, completed in 2006 and designed by local African-American architect Robert Coles to suggest an African Village. It houses an African-American Resource Room with the largest collection in the region on Western New York African-American history. It also has an auditorium frequently used for community events.

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Music is Art	617 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203	870-7089	musicisart.org	Robby Takac, Founder & Pres. Tracy Shattuck, Ex. Dir. info@musicisart.org	Founded in 2003 by Robby Takac, bassist with the Goo Goo Dolls, their mission is to explore and reshape music's cultural, social, and educational impact on the WNY community through various events and programs. They donate instruments to schools and showcase emerging musicians in attempts to increase accessibility to music and musical forums for a diversity of citizens.
Nash House	36 Nash St. Buffalo, NY 14204	856-4490	nashhousemuseum.org	Sharon Holley 886-1399 jordanholley@aol.com nashhouse@verizon.net	This community museum and educational facility was established in 2007, to highlight the work of Rev. Dr. J. Edward Nash, one of WNY's most influential African American leaders.
Peace of the City Ministries	Program: 301 14 th St. Buffalo, NY 14213 Mailing: P.O. Box 750 Buffalo, NY 14213	828-8683, Ext. 201 883-2799	peaceofthecity.org	Diane R. Takens, Executive Director dtakens@peaceofthecity.org Mark Cerbone, Community Liaison mcerbone@peaceofthecity.org	This faith-based Christian organization provides a range of programs to provide inner-city youth with the skills, tools, and values needed to succeed educationally, break the cycle of poverty, and become community leaders and role models. Shakespeare Comes to the (716) is an 8-week long summer program in which Buffalo public school students study, memorize, and perform Shakespeare.
Road Less Traveled Productions	Theatre: 639 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 542 Buffalo, NY 14205	629-3069	roadlesstraveledproductions.org	Scott Behrend, Artistic/Executive Director sbeherend@roadlesstravelledproductions.com	Their mission is to develop and produce new theatrical works by WNY playwrights, as well as productions of modern dramas of literary merit. The theatre tells stories of importance to our community, to reflect on our lives and to reveal our common relationships and diverse humanity.

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Sportsmen's Americana Music Foundation	330 Amherst St. Buffalo, NY 14207	553-4713	Sportsmenstavern.net	Dwane Hall, Chairman Jeffrey Goldfarb, President info@sportsmensamf.org	A new initiative, unveiled in 2014, committed to fostering and promoting an appreciation for Americana music through the production and sponsorship of performance and broadcast events, as well as through workshops and seminars in the WNY community.
Squeaky Wheel/ Buffalo Media Resources	712 Main St. Suite B1 Buffalo, NY 14201	884-7172	Squeaky.org	Jax Deluca, Executive Director jax@squeaky.org	This is a grassroots artist-run center for promoting and supporting film, video, and computer, digital and audio art. They provide low-cost access to resources for the community and also screen independent and avant-garde film and video.
Starlight Studio and Art Gallery	340 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202	842-1525	starlightstudio.org	Carrie Marcotte, Director cmarcotte@ldaofwny.org	This is an open-art studio environment, providing individualized guidance to support and cultivate artistic expression of adults with disabilities. It was created by the Learning Disabilities Association of WNY and includes a public gallery as well as art for sale.
Subversive Theatre	255 Great Arrow Ave. Buffalo, NY 14207	408-0499	subversivetheatre.org	Kurt Schneiderman, Founder/Artistic Director theredkurt_14202@yahoo.com	Subversive Theatre's performance troupe is dedicated to left-wing political theatre. They are dedicated to the needs and concerns of those who are oppressed, exploited, and dis-enfranchised by the existing social order. The troupe believes itself to also be a catalyst for action, embracing a wide spectrum of the activist movement.
Theatre for Change, Inc.	234 Carmel Rd. Buffalo, NY 14214	883-7942	theatreforchange.com	Darleen Pickering Hummert, Executive Director Theatre4change@verizon.net	This is a troupe of actors, writers, and directors who use the power of theatre to address current social issues such as diversity and inclusion, domestic violence, and violence in schools.

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Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site	641 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202	884-0095	trsite.org	Stanton H. Hudson, Jr., Executive Director stanton_hudson@partner.nps.gov Janice Kuzan, Assistant Director Janice_kuzan@partner.nps.org	This site is a national historic museum which preserves the Ansley Wilcox House where T. Roosevelt became the 26 th U.S. President in 1901. It commemorates T.R.'s life and legacy, the Pan-American Exposition, and President McKinley's assassination. The site hosts events to educate the community on the WNY history related to these two presidents. The site also aims to showcase Buffalo's role as a leader in addressing social justice issues.
Torn Space Theater	612 Fillmore Ave. Buffalo, NY 14212	812-5733	tornspacetheater.com	Dan Shanahan, Founder tornspacetheater@gmail.com	This "global avant-garde" theater aims to create original, aesthetically innovative performances, while utilizing a variety of other arts disciplines. They also have created site-specific productions designed around the unique WNY architecture and mythology of our historically significant buildings.
Verve Dance Studios	910 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14202	432-2761	vervedancestudio.com	Shane, Director vervedancestudio@gmail.com	Verve is a community center dedicated to the Hip Hop and B-boying culture. The studio hosts art, music, dance, and community awareness events.
Western New York Blues Society	P.O. Box 129 Kenmore, NY 14217		Wnyblues.org	Jack McArdle, President	Established in 1992, this organization preserves and supports blues music through educational endeavors and promotional events. Their "Blues in the Schools" program includes a character education program for students in area schools.
WUFO AM Radio	143 Broadway Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203	834-1080	wufoam.com	Sheila L. Brown, CEO sbrown@wufoam.com	This radio station was established in 1961 as WNY's first station devoted to the African-American community. It uplifts, educates, and entertains a diverse listening audience, with stories that impact urban Buffalo.

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Ujima Company, Inc.	135 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222	883-4232	Ujimatheatre.org	Rahwa Ghirmatzion Executive Director Rahwag12@gmail.com	This is a professional theatre company, dedicated to advance the exposure of the performing arts as created and interpreted by African-American and other Third World artists in WNY. It serves as a resource to persons, agencies, and institutions serving non-violence, cultural diversity, at-risk youth, and positive values.
VENT			www.ventbuffalo.com	Jamiah Mootry Savion Mingo Editors Ventbuffalo@gmail.com	VENT is a small multimedia business with a social justice spirit. It publishes a submission based electronic magazine that is focused on giving the residents of Buffalo's East Side and others a safe space to vent about issues affecting themselves and their community in hopes that after venting, they will become a part of the solution.
Young Audiences of WNY	1 Lafayette Square Buffalo, NY 14203	881-0917	yawny.org	Cynnie Gaasch, Executive Director cynnie@yawny.org	This organization provides connections between youth and professional artists in 8 WNY counties, through workshops and residency programs in order to engage youth in creative learning through the arts. The organization also sponsors jobs that promote the economic growth and quality of life in local communities.