Students, artists, teachers, parents, and the community will come together May 23rd at 6 pm at Strong Vincent for a culminating event celebrating and honoring students’ work created through Erie Arts & Culture’s Arts in Education Program. Erie Arts & Culture is committed to increasing educational engagement and achievement by providing youth in Northwest Pennsylvania with access to exceptional arts experiences. One way that we reflect this commitment is with teaching artist residencies, through which we build the capacity of artists in our region so that they can better serve as leaders in the community. The four residencies being celebrated include:

One World Tribe – East Middle School
Annie Schmitt

Academy – East Middle School

Vincent Middle School
Tom Ferraro and Ed Grout – Strong

These four residencies were funded in part through the Erie Arts Endowment and funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development’s Neighborhood Assistant Program.

Erie Arts & Culture’s Arts in Education Plan and Northwest Bank through the Dr. Rosemary Omniewski Arts Infusion Education Fund.

During this event we will also select a Leading Lady Chair and Co-chair to help facilitate the group’s events. Please give some thought to who these two special ladies may be.

Friday, May 24th | 5 – 7 pm
Blossom’s Clay Studio
Bloom Collaborative
138 East 26th Street | Erie Pa
Please R.S.V.P. to Judy by May 20th. Capacity is limited to 60. Thank you!

Dear Ladies,
We are in the final year of our first three year commitment! Saying Thank You for your patience as this group has evolved over that time is not nearly enough. Your commitment to including arts in our educational settings is outstanding. Your contributions help grow the Virginia P. Vieser Fund at the Erie Community Foundation. Created in memory of Virginia P. Vieser in 1994, the fund began with a gift from her estate. As a Leading Lady, your pledges increase Virginia’s Endowment payout and honor her wishes by ensuring the longevity of opportunities within arts in education. The Virginia P. Vieser Funds helps support art in an educational setting through our Erie Arts & Culture Project Grant funding program.

In addition to the Virginia P. Vieser Fund, Erie Arts & Culture is pleased to announce that the Omniewski family has established a permanently endowed fund within the Erie Arts Endowment to honor the late Dr. Rosemary Omniewski. The fund, named the Dr. Rosemary Omniewski Arts Infusion Education Fund, will support arts infused residencies with teaching artists through the Arts in Education program, administered by Erie Arts & Culture, in Erie, Warren, and Crawford Counties. This endowment also aligns with the Leading Ladies’ philosophy of fostering arts within an educational environment.

As a Leading Lady, you determine how your contributions are distributed between these two funds. Leading Lady pledges remain a three year commitment however, we are excited to announce the expansion of Leading Lady membership yearly gift opportunities as follows:

- **Sapphire** $250
- **Emerald** $500
- **Ruby** $1,000
- **Diamond** $5,000

Formal invitation to follow.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Bloeser
Erie Arts & Culture
Leading Lady Steward
Second Sundays are an interactive and intergenerational program that takes place at the Erie Art Museum. Its goals are to facilitate intergenerational family engagement with a child led art making activity; create an environment of exploration, inquiry, critical thinking and fun; and provide free arts programming for families.

Second Sundays take place at the Museum the second Sunday of each month from 2 pm – 4pm with pay-as-you-wish admission.

This project exposed students to nature and allowed various environmental settings to serve as inspiration for their artwork. Through the offerings of art courses held at the Neighborhood Art House and field trips to multiple outdoor locations, the children were able to experience the beauty of nature through participating in visual arts and poetry. Project settings included indoor and outdoor classrooms at the Neighborhood Art House and various nature locations in Erie County such as the Glenodo Center, Presque Isle State Park, Erie Zoo, Asbury Woods Nature Center, Headwaters Park, Liberty Park, the Erie Bayfront and the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier.

Thank you Leading Ladies, your generous contributions have made these moments possible!

Making Opportunities for Volunteerism and Exploration (MOVE)

The MOVE (Making Opportunities for Volunteerism and Exploration) program of EHCA (Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.) has worked with Dafmark Dance Theatre for 18 years to create Partners in Dance, allowing adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) with an interest in the arts to learn about dance and perform with an accomplished teaching artist in the community.

Partners in Arts began in 2015 and allows people with I/DD to work on fine motor skills with an art instructor in the community.

(above) A moment of pure joy with MOVE dancers Chris and Jessica with instructor Jennifer Dennehy.

(right) Dawn B. performs with the group with a little help from one of the staff members at MOVE.

Photo Credit: EHCA