Dear Ladies,

The Virginia Vieser Arts Education Fund continues to grow and has 20 plus years of grant making opportunities on record.

The money that you so generously give to the Virginia Vieser Arts Education Fund is distributed through Erie Arts & Culture Project Grants. Project grants provide up to $5,000 in financial support to nonprofit organizations in Erie County for existing and innovative arts projects. Proposals for our Project Grants are accepted once a year and awards are made possible by contributions made to the Erie Arts Endowment, United Arts Fund, and special giving events like Erie Gives Day. Proposals for these grants are accepted once a year, and complete proposals are reviewed and scored by a volunteer panel based on three criteria: Quality of Project Design, Community Engagement & Impact, and Management.

Established in 2019, the Dr. Rosemary Omniewski Arts Infusion Fund has reached the initial target of $10,000 thanks to the commitment of all of you and Rosie’s family and friends. This fund will have its own grant application and initial funding from it will be awarded in 2020.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Bloeser
Erie Arts & Culture
Leading Lady Steward

Join us in welcoming the following Leading Ladies!

Teesha Arlinton-Nesbit
Teesha leads diversity and inclusion efforts for Erie Insurance Group and is passionate about coaching and mentoring. She is a Registered Corporate Coach and experienced leadership facilitator and also the founder and Principal of Phoenix Rising Coaching, LLC.

Alice De George
Owner of Presque Isle Printing Services, Alice is a graphic designer, entrepreneur, radio show co-host, public speaker, and enthusiastic advocate for the arts.

Daria Devlin
Daria is the Executive Director at Erie Center for Arts & Technology (ECAT), a non-profit that provides arts programs to at-risk high school students and job training to adults, all at no cost. She is the former coordinator of grants and community relations at the Erie School District.

Amanda Kochirka
Amanda, Program Director for the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, is very active within the community through her board service with CAFÉ at the City of Erie, the Foundation for Erie’s Public Schools, the Public Relations Society of America NWPA Chapter, and as a volunteer for ATHENA Erie.

Evolution-Erie. In addition, she is currently with the Penn State Behrend Bookstore helping students with their textbook needs.

Elizabeth Dwyer Lincoln
Lin is a Fiduciary Account Review Specialist with PNC Wealth Management and boy mom of four who enjoys travel, dance, and water sports.

Christina Marsh
Chris serves as the Community and Economic Development Officer for Erie Insurance and enjoys spending time with her husband of 25 years and three boys: RJ, Noah and Luke.

Holly Nowak
Holly, former Arts in Education Program Director for Erie Arts & Culture, worked to build the Dr. Rosemary Omniewski Arts Infusion Education Fund, named after her dear friend, Rosie, with the Omniewski Family. Today she manages The Studio at St. Mary’s: Space to Create, offering classes and creating fiber art at Space to Create.

Rebecca Styn
Rebecca is a Mercyhurst and Gannon University graduate with a passion for civic leadership.

February 28, 2020 | 5 pm – 7 pm
Invitation to follow.
Leading Ladies is a connected network of engaged women who all share the spirit of philanthropy. The women who comprise this group have generously made a three year pledge of either $250, $500, $1,000, or $5,000. Their gifts are an investment in childhood development by funding initiatives that provide Erie County youth with increased access to programs that foster culture and creativity.

Teesha Artinton-Nesbit  
Bridget Barber  
Susan Breon  
Noel Burgoyne  
Almi Clerkin  
Mary Ellen Dahlkemper  
Alice De George  
Daria Devlin  
Donna Douglass  
Christine Ferrier  
Martha Hilbert  
Nancy Kern Sr.  
Amanda Kochirka  
Jennifer Kovach  
Liz Lincoln  
Mary Lindquist  
Christina Marsh  
Blossom McBrier  
Lynn McBrier  
Deborah Murphy  
Holly Nowak  
Sharon Stoik  
Colleen Stumpf  
Rebecca Slyn

Our Spring Event, at BLOOM Collaborative’s Blossom Gallery, consisted of great conversations, cocktails and creativity! We worked collaboratively to create a large fused glass piece in the style of Georgia O’Keeffe. Unfortunately, due to complications, the piece was unable to be successfully fused in the glass ovens. Despite the loss of our finished product, our Leading Ladies shared warm laughs, delicious hors d’oeuvres, and passionate discussions of arts in education.

Thank you to all who helped welcome the artists to our hospitality area at the Erie Blues and Jazz Festival. It was such a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. We had shaded, ringside seats to all of the activities taking place in the Artist’s Village, in addition to hearing the bands performing on the mainstage. Sunday, we hosted the Leading Ladies Afternoon Cocktail Reception with artists and demonstrators from the Artist’s Village.

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This past July, Dan Omniewski and family, along with the tireless help of Leading Lady Holly Nowak, hosted Nurture Rosie’s Garden – a party which benefited The Dr. Rosemary Omniewski Arts Infusion Education Fund. Rosie’s loved ones and friends gathered to celebrate her life and raise over $7,000 – reaching the fund’s initial goal!