

2019 NEW LEADING LADIES

Welcome

It gives us great pleasure to welcome nine new Leading Ladies this year! **Our group has nearly doubled in size during 2019!** We are overjoyed to have these accomplished women join the affinity to help us continue our support of lifelong learning through arts in education.

If you know a special lady who shares our passion of the arts and it's ability to engage senses, evoke emotions, cultivate creativity, and boost self-esteem; please invite them to become a Leading Lady.

Together our efforts support the integration of the arts into our schools, community centers, publicly accessible spaces, and senior living facilities.



Join us in welcoming the following Leading Ladies!

Teesha Arlinton-Nesbit

Tesha 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 new 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.

Jennifer Kovach

Jennifer supports the entrepreneurs in our community with a new entrepreneur book club,

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

Elizabeth Dwyer Lincoln

Liz 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

Vice President of Erie Innovation District, writer, and proprietor of Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe Rebecca is a Mercyhurst and Gannon University graduate with a passion for civic leadership.



Newsletter

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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



UPCOMING Events

ROOM
speakeasy & cafe

1033 STATE STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

SAVE
THE
DATE

LEADING LADIES SPEAKEASY COCKTAIL GATHERING

"Who says the flappers got to have all the fun?"

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 Arlinton-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 Styn



Fall for Arts & Culture

Leading Ladies who accepted our invitation to our 31st annual Fall For Arts & Culture Community Appreciation Awards enjoyed an enchanting evening of augmented reality, live musical performances, interactive art stations, henna on demand, tours of the Former Temple Anshe Hased, delectable food selections, local wines and craft beers, pop-up dance performances and much more!



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'Keefe. 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 Artists Village.



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!

