We welcomed new team members!
Let's give a warm welcome to Ethan, Casey, and Nat.

Our Staff

Ethan Hayden
PROGRAM OFFICER OF ARTS AND LEARNING
Ethan leads EAC’s arts and learning initiatives, including our teaching artist residency program.

Casey Corritore
PROGRAM OFFICER OF CAPACITY BUILDING
Casey leads EAC’s capacity building initiatives, including our grant and fellowship programs and efforts to expand the working knowledge and skills of the individuals and organizations representing our sector.

Nat Richmond
MARKETING ASSOCIATE
Nat assists EAC in telling effective stories and raising the profile of our region’s creative and cultural sector.

DaVona Pacley
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ASSOCIATE
DaVona helps engage stakeholders on a one-on-one and group basis. She assists in identifying the needs and aspirations of our stakeholders and then directly connecting them to programs and services provided by EAC.

Jade Mitchell
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Jade leads EAC’s branding and is responsible for our visual storytelling through marketing collateral.

Patrick Fisher
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Patrick is responsible for working with staff and Board to define, implement, and track the strategic goals and objectives that support our mission.

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Capacity building is developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources of an individual or organization so they are better able to produce, perform, or deploy their work or mission.
We launched the Creative Crowd.

Q1 Stats

10
We hosted 10 events. (In-person and virtual.)

175
We provided learning and other opportunities to 175 individuals through these events.

42
We promoted 42 opportunities for artists on our Resource webpage.

50
We promoted 50 sector events through our digital channels.

1:1 GUIDANCE
Our team spent a total of 201 hours providing 1:1 guidance to organizations and individuals.

These monthly meet-ups are designed to provide a friendly and casual space to foster stronger personal and professional connections within the creative and cultural sector. Host sites rotate from month to month to allow for new experiences and connections.

We invite you to join us!

Second Tuesday of each month!

REGISTER FOR THE NEXT MEET-UP HERE
We launched the **Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program**

The Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program matches eligible creative entrepreneurs with existing, free, local, small business consulting services and financial resources ranging from $500 to $2,000 to help them grow their businesses, audiences, and revenue.

**We provided $16,476 in funding support in Cycle 1.**

Awards included: 4 awards in Erie County, 1 award in Warren County, 2 awards in Crawford County, 1 award in Venango County, and 1 award in Mercer County

The second funding cycle is now open! (Closes June 30, 2022)

[Click here for more details or to apply!](#)

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We launched the **Northwestern PA Arts Recovery Grant Program**

Erie Arts & Culture received an American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic. EAC was one of 66 local arts agencies across the nation to receive a grant award. The grants are intended to fuel the nation’s recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are intended to help support artists and the broader arts and culture sector in its response to and recovery from the pandemic.

**Organizations:**

[Click here for more details or to apply!](#)

**Artists:**

[Click here for more details or to apply!](#)
In 2016, Erie Arts & Culture made a commitment to make a greater investment in the artists living and working in Erie County by establishing the annual Artist Fellowship program. The agency saw a need to provide artists with funding, specifically unrestricted funding, that could be used by artists to delve deeper into their creative processes and assist them in their pursuit of artistic development and growth.

In 2019, Erie Arts & Culture began awarding professional development grants to artists across three categories; emerging, mid-career, and established. Each category provided cash awards of $2000, $3500, and $5500 respectively.

Each year, applicants are reviewed by an independent panel of subject matter experts from outside of Erie County to reduce conflicts of interest. This year, applicants included a wide array of visual, performing, and literary artists, and panel members met virtually from Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Florida, and California.

We awarded Fellowships to 4 artists.

**Emerging:** Britty Lea

**Mid-Career:** Gyan Ghising

**Established:** Passle Helminski

**Established:** Sean Dougherty

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS HERE
Erie Arts & Culture awarded 28 Erie County organizations funding through the Ignite Arts Grant program. This program provides organizations with up to $2,500 in project-based grants to support a variety of arts and humanities projects and events that strengthen the vibrancy and vitality of the Erie region, and enrich the lives of our community.

Funding for this grant opportunity is made possible through contributions to the Erie Arts Endowment and the annual United Arts Fund. Projects which involve music performance, and arts education have an enhanced pool of funds available thanks to donors who wish to ensure these specific activities continue to thrive across Erie County.

We awarded $57,435 to 28 Organizations.

READ THE FULL LIST OF GRANTEES HERE
We hosted 2 Visiting Artists in Residence.

Thank you to Amanda Browder and Overstreet Ducasse for sharing your talents and work with the Erie Community! Our Visiting Artist in Residence program is in collaboration with the Long Roads Projects and is made possible by a grant from the Erie Community Foundation.

Amanda Browder

Overstreet Ducasse

Visiting Artist STATS

(Quarter)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>34 Touchpoints with our community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2  Class Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Artist Critiques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1  Temporary Public Art Installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Erie Businesses Supported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning through the arts establishes and reinforces the soft skills necessary to live an enriched life in today’s ever-changing world. For this reason, Erie Arts & Culture envisions a region where every person has access to meaningful experiences that utilize the arts as a tool for personal development, both in academic and communal environments.

Erie Arts & Culture is one of 14 organizations across the state that formally partners with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts to administer an Arts in Education (AIE) program. As a partner, we leverage funds provided by the Commonwealth to support in-depth arts experiences for youth and adults within six counties of Northwestern Pennsylvania, including: Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren, and Lawrence.
We support Teaching Artists.

$67,330 in teaching artist stipends distributed

17 Total Teaching Artist Residencies

12 Host sites served through residencies

857 Total number of individuals directly served

2 Residencies by first-time teaching artists

18 Artists provided with paid opportunities (11 teaching artists and 7 guest artists)

Teaching artist and painter Ceasar Westbrook recently completed a residency at Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy. The residency engaged about a dozen high school students in creating a mural in tribute to the late dance instructor, Carla Hughes.

Meet Ceasar Westbrook

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE
HONORING DIVERSE CULTURES

Cultural diversity is the range of cultures present within a community. Honoring diverse cultures means respecting the full range of cultural demonstrations, even those different from one's own. Preserving diverse cultures entails valuing integration over assimilation and enabling communities to sustain and pass down practices from one generation to the next.
We supported the Tamang New Year Celebration.

In February about 250 people gathered for Lhosar, a Tibetan New Year celebration at the Tamang Buddhist Cultural Center in Lawrence Park. This new center boasts beautiful devotional paintings and sculptures, and now that pandemic restrictions have eased, they are hosting events and classes.
**PLACEMAKING + PLACEKEEPING**

What is it?

Placemaking – Multi-faceted approach to the planning, designing, and building out of spaces that are accessible to the general public. These people and place-based design strategies are intended to create emotional bonds between people and the spaces they occupy. Community engagement and participation are critical steps in the placemaking process, as investments need to be centered on community members and their needs, aspirations, desires, and visions. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community’s existing assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating shared spaces that promote community health, cohesion, and well-being.

Placekeeping – The active care and maintenance of space after a sense of place has been established.
We launched **Purposeful Placemaking** with United Way.

In October 2021, Erie Arts & Culture commissioned a mural on the exterior of the former Wayne School, which is now home to the Erie Center for Arts and Technology, the United Way of Erie County, and several other service-based organizations. This mural, along with a trip to Flint, Michigan, where they created 200 murals in a two-year time span, encouraged Erie Arts & Culture to be more strategic in our approach to future mural initiatives. With that in mind, we approached United Way of Erie County to discuss an initiative through which we would strategically locate murals along identified Safer Walking Routes to Community Schools.

This has led Erie Arts & Culture and the United Way to adopt a shared goal of raising funds that will support the creation of 50 new murals over two years. Using discretionary funds, financial contributions from Erie Insurance, and an ARP grant from the City of Erie, Erie Arts & Culture has secured the necessary funds to execute Phase 1 of the project. Phase 1 will commence in the summer of 2022 and will include 10 murals along the Safer Walking Route, two per each of the five community schools.

**Featured photos are from Flint, Michigan.**
We launched a new Placemaking Initiative: The East Avenue Mural Project.

In March, Erie Arts & Culture was approached by ServErie and the City of Erie to discuss a collaborative initiative being led by the non-profit organization and the municipality. This summer, efforts will be made to serve residents and businesses along East Avenue and the surrounding area through community engagement and scalable beautification projects. Wanting to contribute to this initiative, Erie Arts & Culture will work with artists Steve Mik and Brian Bonner to create a mural located on East Avenue.

As a unique approach to this project, Steve and Brian are developing a curriculum that they will teach through the Erie Center for Arts & Technology. Jude Shingle, ECAT’s Arts Program Director, will assist the artists with finalizing their curriculum, which will teach both the business and creative aspects of being an artist. In addition to helping design and create the mural, students will learn about community engagement, site selection and preparation, contract writing, mural conceptualization and design, material acquisition, painting, and more.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE
Tauna Hunter - Chair
Professor Emeritus of Dance | Mercyhurst University
Term Expiration: 2023

Rhonda Matthews, PhD - Vice Chair
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Term Expiration: 2023

Bryan Timm - Treasurer
Director of Sales | Organ Supply Industries
Term Expiration: 2021

Adrecia Milsap - Secretary
Erie Insurance
Term Expiration: 2023

George Espy - Immediate Past Chair
Retired
Term Expiration: 2023

Keith Kennedy
SVP Strategic and Integrated Services | Erie Insurance
Term Expiration: 2023

Jonathon Riley
PNC Wealth Management
Term Expiration: 2023

Walter Iwanenko, PhD
Vice President of Academic Affairs | Gannon University
Term Expiration: 2023

Richard Scaletta
Retired Superintendent | General McLane School District
Term Expiration: 2022

Tom New
President | WQLN
Term Expiration: 2024

Tim Palochak
General Manager/Vice President | Lamar Advertising
Term Expiration: 2022

Mona Kang, PhD
Physician
Term Expiration: 2022

Amy Cuzzola Kern, PhD
Nonprofit Consultant
Term Expiration: 2023

Paula Gregory
Erie Downtown Development Corporation
Term Expiration: 2023

Peggy Laughlin
Parker Lord
Term Expiration: 2023

Kelly Armor
Folklorist in Residence

Linda Graff
Administrative Support Volunteer
Please support the work of Erie Arts & Culture by making a charitable donation.

CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT EAC