

2022

Quarter 1

**Erie Arts
& Culture**

IMPACT REPORT

We welcomed new team members!

Let's give a warm welcome to Ethan, Casey, and Nat.



SUPPORT



Kelly Armor
FOLKLORIST
IN RESIDENCE



Linda Graff
ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

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.

CAPACITY BUILDING

What is it?

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.

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.

We launched the **Creative Crowd**.



*Second Tuesday
of each month!*

**Creative
CROWD**

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!

New programs!

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!](#)

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!](#)

2022 Artist Fellows

We awarded Fellowships to **4 artists.**

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.



EMERGING:
Brittany Lea



MID-CAREER:
Gyan Ghising



ESTABLISHED:
Passle Helminski



ESTABLISHED:
Sean Dougherty



Erie Contemporary Ballet



Community Access Media

Ignite Arts

We awarded **\$57,435**
to **28 Organizations.**

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.



Amanda Browder

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.

Visiting Artist **STATS** (Quarter)

34 Touchpoints with our community

2	Class Visits
5	Artist Critiques
1	Temporary Public Art Installation
5	Erie Businesses Supported



Overstreet Ducasse

ARTS IN LIFELONG LEARNING

What is it?

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.

Q1 Stats

\$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)

We support **Teaching Artists.**



Meet Caesar Westbrook

Teaching artist and painter Caesar 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.

HONORING DIVERSE CULTURES

What is it?

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.



Kelly Armor
FOLKLORIST
IN RESIDENCE

Q1 Stats

Connected with

8

DIFFERENT CULTURES

3

Paid Opportunities

Awarded to Folk Artists

1:1

GUIDANCE

79 HOURS

Our Folklorist in Residence dedicated 79 hours to consulting and referrals with individuals and organizations.



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.

STAFF



Patrick Fisher
Executive Director



Jade Mitchell
Creative Director



DaVona Pacley
Community Outreach and Engagement Associate



Ethan Hayden
Program Officer of Arts and Learning



Casey Corritore
Program Officer of Capacity Building



Nat Richmond
Marketing Assistant

BOARD

Tauna Hunter - Chair

Professor Emeritus of Dance | Mercyhurst University

Term Expiration: 2023

Rhonda Matthews, PhD - Vice Chair

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Term Expiration: 2023

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Director of Sales | Organ Supply Industries
Term Expiration: 2021

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Term Expiration: 2023

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Term Expiration: 2023

Keith Kennedy

SVP Strategic and Integrated Services | Erie Insurance

Term Expiration: 2023

Jonathan Riley

PNC Wealth Management
Term Expiration: 2023

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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

SUPPORT

Kelly Armor

Folklorist in Residence

Linda Graff

Administrative Support Volunteer



Erie Arts & Culture

Please support the work of
Erie Arts & Culture by making
a charitable donation.

