

2022

Quarter 2

**Erie Arts
& Culture**

IMPACT REPORT

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.

Q2 Stats

8

We hosted 8 educational, networking, and training events. (In-person and virtual.)

160

We provided learning and other opportunities to 160 individuals through these events.

13

We promoted 13 opportunities for artists on our Resource webpage.

97

We promoted 97 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.

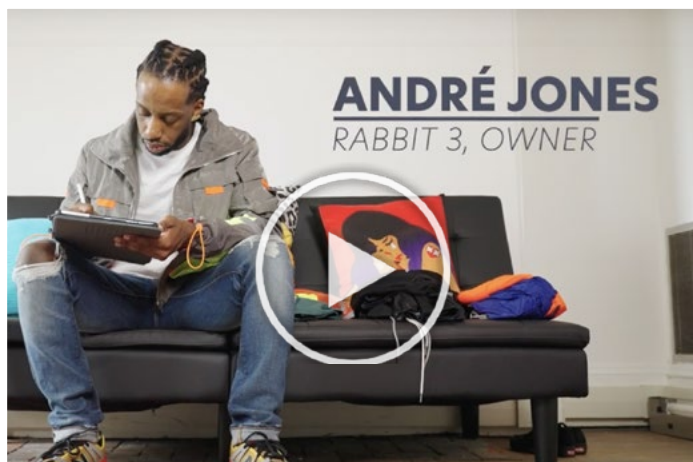


Highlight: Ansumana Gbembo launches new dog apparel line



Ansumana Gbembo is an Erie-based tailor who arrived in Erie as a refugee from West Africa. Erie Arts & Culture has worked with Ansumana for several years through several of our programs. Recently, Ansumana shared an entrepreneurial goal of designing, producing, and selling jackets and accessories for pets. EAC staff worked directly with Ansumana to both develop a prototype, capture photos for marketing purposes, and price his pet accessories. The EAC team helped Ansumana track and calculate his costs, ensuring that his sales prices adequately cover both his materials and labor costs. If you'd like to inquire about ordering a dog jacket, please contact Ansumana at Ansumana.gbembo@gmail.com.

André Jones,
Rabbit 3



Updates!

We distributed \$32,000 in funding through 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 \$32,000 in funding support to 16 entrepreneurs in Cycle 2.

Awards included: 13 awards in Erie County, 2 awards in Mercer County, and 1 award in Venango County.

The Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program supports emerging and growing businesses in Pennsylvania's core arts and culture industries: Marketing, Architecture, Visual Arts & Crafts, Design, Film & Media, Digital Games, Music & Entertainment, and Publishing.

Over two cycles, Erie Arts & Culture has provided **1:1 consulting and financial support to over 25 local entrepreneurs**, empowering artists to open brick and mortar storefronts, enroll in business courses, promote their work digitally and in print, and invest in equipment to increase their efficiency.

Additionally, this program advances and prioritizes the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' overarching value of diversity, equity, and inclusion and prioritizes investment in creative entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous, or persons of color (BIPOC) or those located in and whose work benefits low-income communities. To date, 19 out of 25 funded applicants meet these criteria.



Northwestern PA ARTS RECOVERY GRANTS



*We distributed
\$84,575
as part of the*

Northwestern PA Arts Recovery Grant Program

Updates!

The Northwestern PA Arts Recovery Grant Program was launched by Erie Arts & Culture after receiving a federal American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. This grant program provides funding support to individual artists and small to mid-sized non-profit arts organization as the sector works to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant provides stipends to individual artists for the production of community-based workshops or presentations that are accessible to a wide audience, which are designed to expand community access to the arts by (a) demystifying artistic practice and increasing the accessibility of arts programs to communities—especially communities that may have been underserved in the past by federal arts funding.

20 individual artists received grant awards, each ranging from \$1,400 to \$2,500 dollars, for a **total of \$46,575**. Many of these artists had never before applied for an arts grant. Artists are based in Erie, Venango, and Crawford Counties.

The grant also awards ARP funds to eligible arts and cultural non-profit organizations to help support jobs in the arts sector and maintain day-to-day operations, maintaining or furthering community access to the arts.

8 arts organizations received grant awards, each ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000 dollars, for a total of **\$38,000**.

After the first cycle of the Northwestern PA Arts Recovery grant, EAC has distributed a total of \$84,575 throughout the region's arts sector.

28 total awards were granted to artists and organizations across EAC's six-county service area.



Second Tuesday of each month!

Thank you to our host sites and attendees who joined us in April at PACA, in May at Community Access Media, and in June at Grounded Print + Paper Studio.

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 hosted 1 Visiting Artist in Residence.

Thank you to Lauren Hana Chai 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)

100+ Touchpoints with our community

- 1 Artist talks
- 7 Studio visits
- 1 Paid opportunity for Erie artists
- 2 Collaborations with Erie industry



Lauren Hana Chai

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.

Q2 Stats

\$41,280

in teaching artist
stipends distributed

13

Total Teaching
Artist Residencies

9

Unique disciplines
taught

389

Total number of
individuals directly
served

1

Residencies by
first-time teaching
artists

16

Artists provided with
paid opportunities
(10 teaching artists and
6 guest artists)



Edison Elementary School hosted a teaching artist residency to help achieve learning objectives for students in the 3rd grade.

Kelly Armor, a local folklorist and storyteller, worked with teachers to co-teach their ecology unity. Kelly's residency is an outcome of a new diversity, equity, and inclusion partnership between the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Through the residency, all third graders at Edison went on a field trip to our cherished state park, where they saw wildlife, discovered fossils, and explored the beaches with Presque Isle environmental educators. Kelly also taught students folk tales, and even invited a Rochester-based guest artist and Onondaga storyteller, Perry Ground, to share folklore from his culture. "Many folk tales explain the natural world in fanciful ways, but they also emphasize our connections to all living things and the importance of cooperation and kindness," says Kelly Armor.



Mikel Prester **MEADVILLE RESIDENCY**

Mikel Prester is a teaching artist and musician, who recently completed a residency at the Meadville Council of the Arts (MCA) in rural Crawford County. The residency engaged half a dozen Meadville residents in a six-day workshop that both taught the musical and technical foundations of jazz and the blues and the important cultural roots and history of Black American music.

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

Q2 Stats

Connected with

13

DIFFERENT CULTURES

7

Paid Opportunities

Awarded to Folk Artists



GUIDANCE

130 HOURS

Our Folklorist in Residence dedicated 130 hours to consulting and referrals with 17 individuals and 13 organizations.



We supported **12 African Artists** through a partnership with the **Erie Zoo**

Kelly Armor, EAC's Folklorist in Residence, provided support to the expERIENCE Children's Museum and the Erie Zoo by facilitating relationships with members of Erie's New American community. The Erie Zoo aligned their annual June fundraiser, The Mane Event (formerly GalapaZOOza), with their mission of education and the conservation of wild animals. This year the event focused on their collection of African animals. Twelve African artists and culture-bearers were integrated into the event through presentations and demonstrations



Vajrakilaya Puja

We supported two Bhutanese Celebrations

Erie's Bhutanese community is around 3,000 individuals (an estimated 3% of the total population) and they have established roots in the city, purchasing homes, and starting businesses.

Two different Bhutanese groups held major celebrations in the early summer of 2022. June 10-12, the Palyul Choekhor Ling Buddhist Center hosted a Vajrakilaya Puja. Over 30 Buddhist monks from across North America came to Erie to chant and pray with other devotees for three consecutive days.



Sakela

On June 11, the Kirat Rai of Erie hosted a Sakela in Perry Square. The Kirat Rai follow an ancient earth-based spirituality that predates Buddhism and Hinduism. The Sakela is their annual spring festival, which resumed after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic. The ritual involved setting up an altar with plants, hunting and farming tools, and offerings of incense and fruit. Drummers played in the center while young people moved around them in a circle with traditional dances that invoked animals, birds, and fish. The celebration gave thanks to the Earth and prayers for a successful harvest.

We created **two online directories** to support local businesses owned by POC



In commemoration of Juneteenth, Erie Arts & Culture collaborated with Erie's Black Wallstreet to develop a list of black-owned businesses operating in Erie. We invite you to download the directory and support Erie's hardworking and talented black community and their businesses.

[Click here to view the Black-Owned Businesses directory!](#)



To honor the enormous contributions refugees make to our community and to celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20, we updated our Refugee-Owned Business Directory. This resource is for anyone wanting to support local entrepreneurs and explore the many cultures that call Erie home.

[Click here to view the Refugee Owned Businesses directory!](#)

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 installed Erie's first Interactive Public Art.

The sculptures are an outcome of EAC's Creating with Community initiative.

The team at CSI fabricated a series of public art sculptures commissioned by Erie Arts & Culture and designed by Buffalo-based artist Shasti O'Leary Soudant, with collaborative planning from Esther Ortiz.

This public art project was funded through a Shaping Tomorrow grant from the Erie Community Foundation and Erie Insurance Group and the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development through the Neighborhood Assistance Program.

Comprising two sets of three sculptural interpretations of trees roughly 6'-7' tall, Kaleidoscope Grove is a functioning collection of vortoscopes - a tube of three mirrored surfaces held in front of a lens that reflects and fractures an image. Each tree is pointed along eight different axes, allowing people to see a multiplicity of different views of the surrounding environment, as well as each other. Images reflected through the vortoscopes will be viewed

in infinite reflection. Each tree is powder-coated in a brilliant color to allude to the vibrancy, diversity, and liveliness of the communities surrounding the installation. The sculptures will provide excellent opportunities for the public to enjoy the unique perspectives it provides, serve as a social media photo opp, and a site for individuals of all ages to learn about the science behind the sculptures. The sculptures will be sturdy, durable, easily maintained, will not block pedestrian traffic, and will be spaced sufficiently far apart to allow for ADA Compliance.

This public art project is funded through a Shaping Tomorrow grant from the Erie Community Foundation and Erie Insurance Group and the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development through the Neighborhood Assistance Program.

We supported **pedestrian and bike-friendly public art**

Artists Jen Peters, Christina Wolfe, Shaddai Rodriguez, and Alex Staley installed another new public art asset in the City of Erie in Q2. This is a continuation of work installed along the 19th Street Corridor that was initiated in 2021 through Erie Arts & Culture's Creating with Community initiative. Suppering the City of Erie's complete streets multi-modal transportation plan, these pieces are intended to promote safe pedestrian and cyclist use of the corridor. In both English and Spanish, the sculptures include statements such as "to be safe, I walk against traffic."

During installation, Josh Gone, a Board member of Bike Erie, stopped to praise the artists for their work, commenting on how important the simple message is to encourage safe cycling.

Pictured at the top, Christina and Alex from the team were joined by artist Scott Quezada during the installation at ROG's Rigging, located on East 19th between Parade Street and German Street.

Pictured at the bottom, this installation is on the fence of the basketball court used by the Spoon's League and it was great to have the strong support of City Council Member Mel Witherspoon.

This public art project is funded through a Shaping Tomorrow grant from the Erie Community Foundation and Erie Insurance Group and the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development through the Neighborhood Assistance Program.





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.

Mural artists were selected in Q2 and the bulk of the planning occurred in Q2. As of August 8, 2022, artists completed four murals, with two more in progress.

“So many members of the community have stopped by as the mural takes shape. It’s fulfilling and uplifting to hear neighbors talk about how much they love the addition of color and how incredibly happy they are that their neighborhood was selected to receive this mural,” said Patrick Fisher, Erie Arts & Culture executive director.

Pictured: (Left) Mural created by Lead artist Nicole Salgar and artist assistants Sarah Howard, Raina Harden, Katherine Peters, and Precious Thompson. Located at the intersection of West 11th Street and Weschler Avenue.

(Right) Mural created by Lead artist Emily Ding and artist assistants Cally Paparelli and Doug Bailey. Located at the Remnant Store (East 11th Street and German Street)



Help EAC
transform this



into this!



Please support
Erie Arts & Culture
this **Erie Gives**

(AUGUST 9th)

EAC will use funds from Erie Gives to support Purposeful Placemaking, a mural initiative that has the goal of creating 50 murals along the Safer Walking Routes to School. These murals will enhance the visual landscape and spur creativity and imagination amongst youth in our community. The first 10 murals are fully funded and will be created in this summer. Your support will help us create 40 additional murals in 2023.

On August 9th you can help us sustain our impact in Erie County by participating in Erie Gives. Please make a donation of \$25 or more to the Erie Community Foundation and name Erie Arts & Culture as a beneficiary.

STAFF



Patrick Fisher
Executive Director



Jade Mitchell
Creative Director



DaVona Pacley
*Community Outreach and
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Ethan Hayden
*Program Officer of Arts
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Casey Corritore
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Term Expiration: 2023*

Peggy Laughlin
*Parker Lord
Term Expiration: 2023*

Michelle Butler
*Lincoln Electric
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.

