

Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance (GBCA)

General Meeting Notes

MusicalFare Theatre

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

12:00PM – 1:30PM

INTRO AND WELCOME – Laurie Dean Torrell and Randy Kramer, GBCA Co-Chairs

- Steering Committee
 - The Steering Committee consists of 12-20 members on average; currently there are 4 seats open.
 - Please consider becoming a Steering Committee Member. GBCA is changing what is viewed as a top-down method to a grassroots bottom-up method in regard to collaboration and advocacy within the arts and cultural community.
 - Joining the Steering Committee demonstrates your investment into the community and brings awareness to your organization and your work; also being a part of the Steering Committee provides a collective energy and framework for your everyday work.

SUB-COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

- Planning Committee – Ted Pietrzak and Meg Quinn, Co-Chairs
 - The Planning Committee works on a comprehensive cultural plan and responds to policy issues related to arts and culture within the region.
 - For more information about cultural plans, examples, and why they are vital to our community, a PowerPoint can be viewed at <http://greaterbuffaloculturalalliance.com/get-involved/>
 - In mid-June the Committee will meet with representatives who created the Niagara, Canada cultural plan to discuss their process. All are welcome to join the meeting.
 - Now is the time to start focusing on all levels of cultural planning (from county to town and village level).
- Advocacy – Tod Kniazuk and David Swarts, Co-Chairs
 - Advocacy measures allow for individual organizations to voice why they are vital to the overall community. GBCA is a way to get power in numbers, to have a voice heard collectively.
 - The Committee advocates for cultural funding through a unified voice and effort across all levels of the community (towns/villages, city, county, state, federal).
 - This Committee works on all levels and is year-round; we ask for you to keep plugged into GBCA for updates and announcements.
 - Advocacy efforts begin a dialogue and educate elected officials and others on the activities of the arts and cultural sector. It is important that this dialogue is welcoming and pro-active when new elected officials come on board.
 - The Committee is seeking representatives from all districts of Erie County to be on the Committee and participate.

INVENTORY OF INITIATIVES

- Open Buffalo – Laurie Dean Torrell
 - Open Buffalo is a great opportunity for our region. Buffalo will receive \$1 million a year for up to ten years to increase our inclusiveness, democracy, and access throughout the community. One of the main reasons Buffalo stood out is because of the heavy arts and culture component in the grant application. We need to make sure we continue to integrate the cultural sector into Open Buffalo. They currently are hiring for an Executive Director, communications should remain open on a regular basis.
- Arts Services Initiative of Western New York – Tod Kniazuk
 - Consolidated Funding Application (CFA): The State provides funds through a variety of State Agencies including the New York State Council on the Arts. There are two levels of review – 1.) By the local Regional Economic Development Councils and 2.) By the New York State Council on the Arts. The New York State Council on the Arts has several avenues in which organizations can apply for funding.
 - Erie County Cultural Funding Application is available and due June 10.
 - New York State Council on the Arts grant funding portal is now open. Applications are due June 27.
 - Trainings/Workshops: Board Governance Training on May 28; ASI also does individual trainings as well. Non-Profit Revitalization Act Training on June 19.
 - Monthly E-newsletters: One e-newsletter focuses on arts and cultural opportunities; the second e-newsletter focuses on best practices in the field.
 - 2014 SPARK Cultural Awards will recognize and award leaders and supporters of the arts and cultural community on June 25. Ticket information can be found at <http://www.asiwny.org/cultural-awards/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- **Vocalis Chamber Choir** is part of the Cambridge Tour; a great opportunity to have a Choir from Western New York.
- **The Riviera Theatre** has several upcoming events; check the full calendar at <http://www.rivieratheatre.org/>
- **The Buffalo History Museum** has a collaborative membership package with Preservation Buffalo Niagara.
- **Young Audiences of Western New York** is seeking applications for its Emerging Leaders Conference in July.

The date for the next Cultural Gathering will be announced soon.