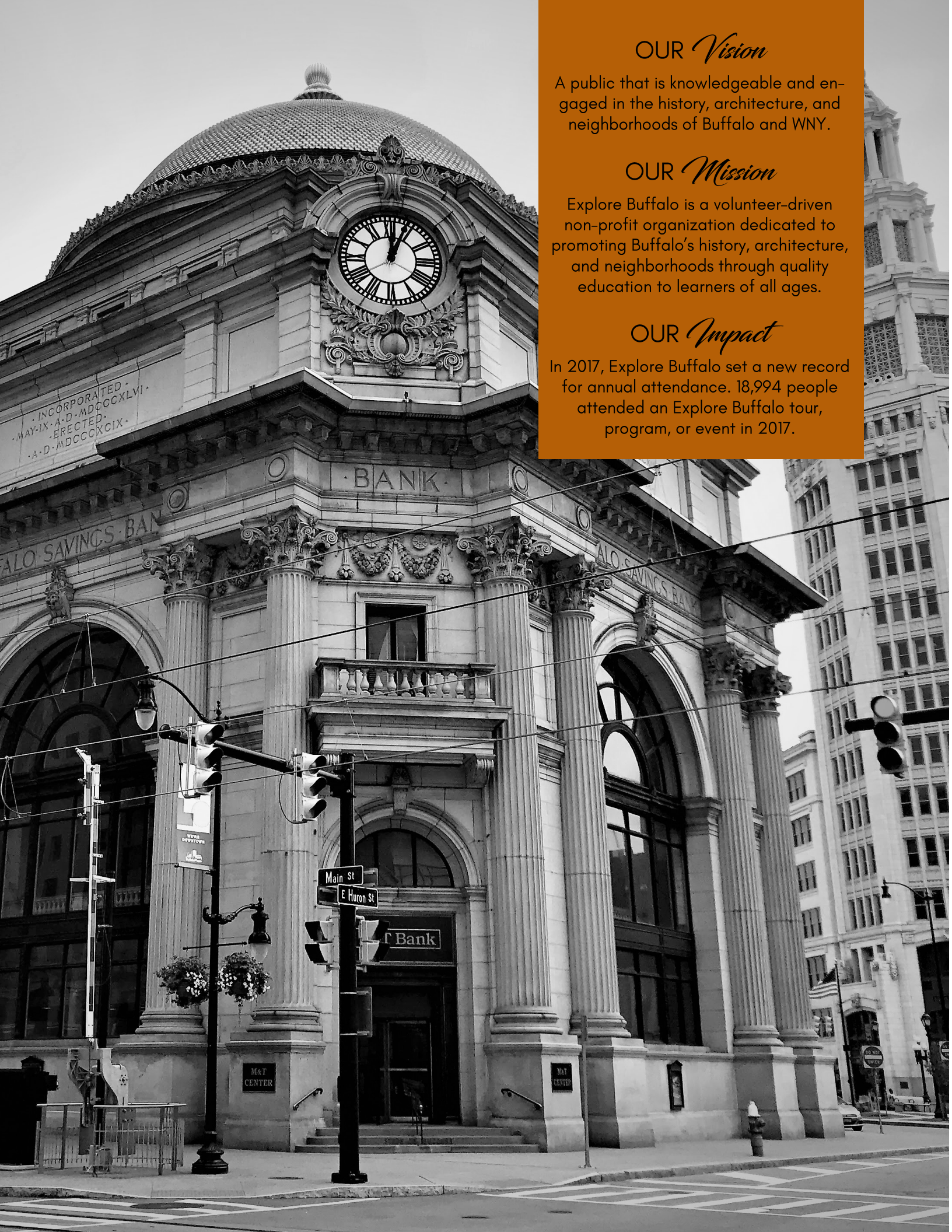


2017 ANNUAL REPORT



EXPLORE
BUFFALO

Experience | Engage | Explore



OUR *Vision*

A public that is knowledgeable and engaged in the history, architecture, and neighborhoods of Buffalo and WNY.

OUR *Mission*

Explore Buffalo is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Buffalo's history, architecture, and neighborhoods through quality education to learners of all ages.

OUR *Impact*

In 2017, Explore Buffalo set a new record for annual attendance. 18,994 people attended an Explore Buffalo tour, program, or event in 2017.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2017 was a milestone year for Explore Buffalo. In addition to setting another record for annual attendance, Explore Buffalo became an independent 501(c)(3) organization on July 1, 2017. Explore Buffalo is deeply grateful for the outstanding support we received from Phil Haberstro and the Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo as our fiscal sponsor from our founding in late 2013. With the support of Phil and the Wellness Institute, our organization was able to grow to the point where our independence was feasible.

The adoption of a three-year strategic plan in 2017 has set Explore Buffalo's priorities for the coming years. We added new tours both in the City of Buffalo and in surrounding WNY communities, including year-round downtown walking tours, and the addition of our monthly Spotlight Tour series has been a tremendous success. Our Strategic Plan places an emphasis on growing our education programs for youth, and our education programs, especially school tours, saw significant increases in attendance in 2017.

Explore Buffalo now has over 200 active volunteers, and their dedicated involvement is what enables our organization to continue to expand its impact. Special thanks goes to the members of our Board of Directors for their leadership, and to our talented and tireless staff for all of the incredible work they do to coordinate Explore Buffalo's many tours, events, and programs. With the support of our many community and business partners, Explore Buffalo is able to reach more people through our tours and programs each year.

2018 is Explore Buffalo's fifth year of giving tours and other education programs. We are excited for the year ahead, with new tours, events, and educational programming that will connect local residents and visitors from around the world with our local architecture, history, and neighborhoods. We look forward to seeing you on a tour this year!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Chuck LaChiusa

VICE PRESIDENT
Cindy Gorski

TREASURER
Robert Wetten

SECRETARY
Ann Palmer

Ron Eaton
Paul Gorski
TinaMarie Kumiega
Margaret Logan

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Thomas Mudra
Kathy Pollack

Denise Prince
Michele Siwinski
Michael Stock

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brad Hahn

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Olivia Wood McCarthy

EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Paige Melin

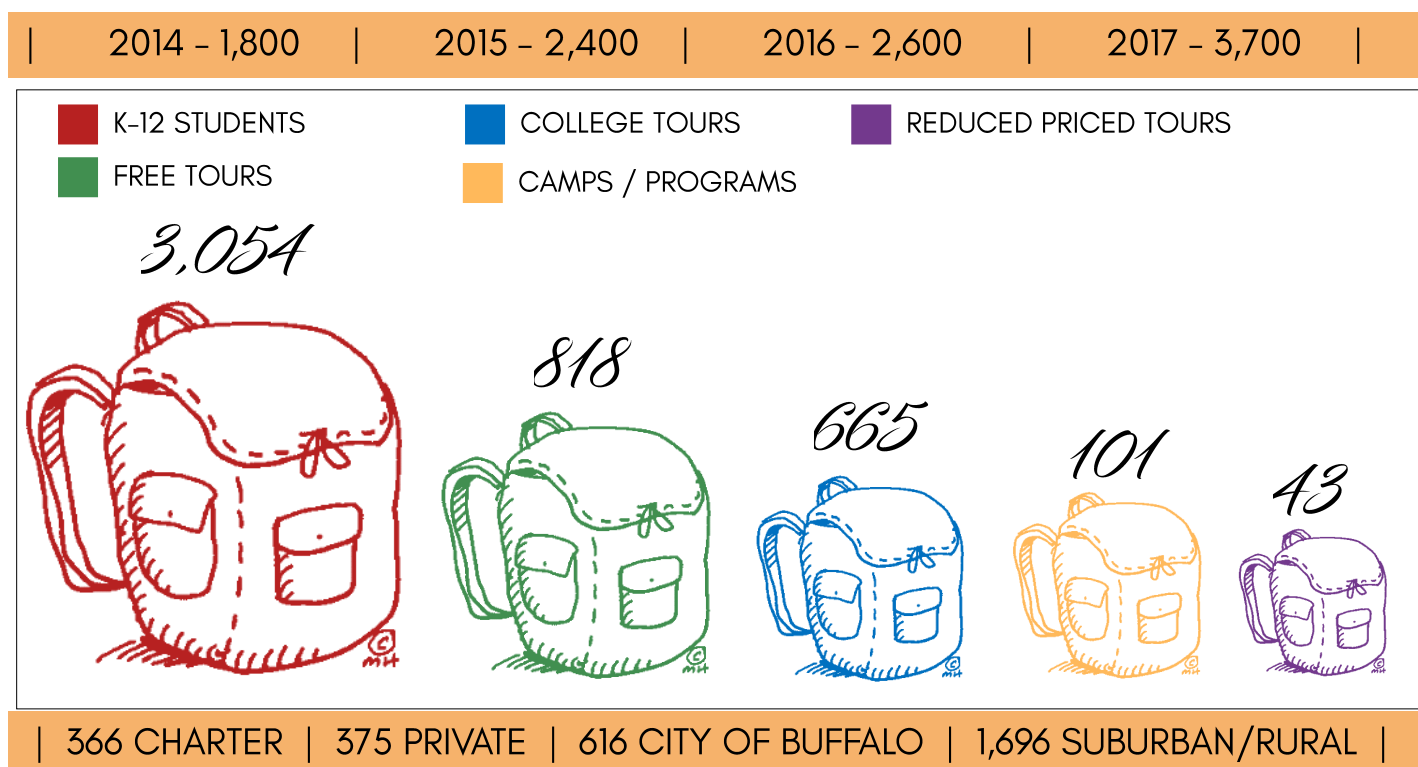
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Cheryl McDonald

ACCOUNTANT
Colleen Kwiatkowski

Igniting Curious Minds

Explore Buffalo's education programs saw many exciting achievements in 2017! In March we launched a partnership with the Buffalo Public Schools and First Student which enabled us to provide 14 completely free tours for 544 Public School Students grades K–9. We also collaborated with Key Bank and Say Yes Buffalo to provide a free tour—including transportation, lunch, and a souvenir t-shirt—for the entire 2nd grade at PS 97 Harvey Austin School.

SCHOOL TOUR ATTENDANCE



NEW YOUTH PROGRAMMING 2017

- Boy Scout Architecture Merit Badge *in partnership with the Darwin Martin House*
- Junior Explorers Design Workshop *in partnership with the Buffalo Architecture Foundation*
- Explore the Summer Free Family Tours
- Architecture & Use Outreach Workshop

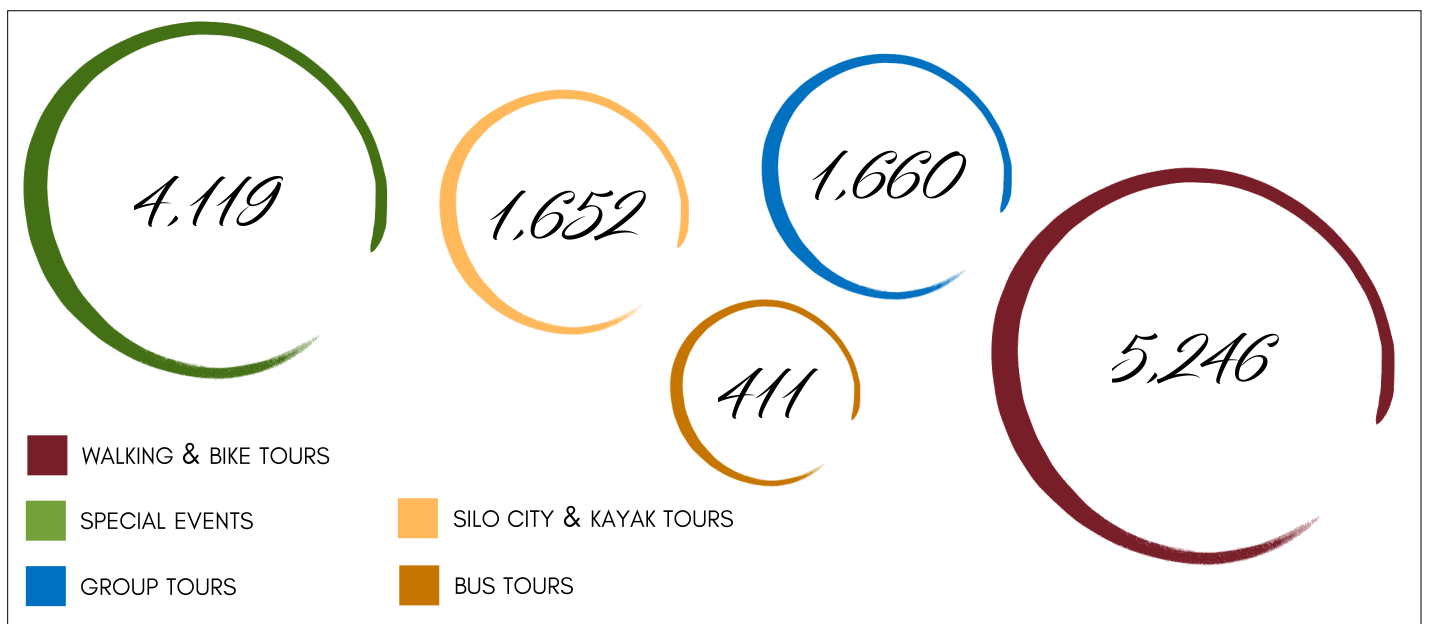


Educating Learners of All Ages

With input from guests at our annual fundraiser, support from partner organizations, and the dedication of our volunteers, Explore Buffalo developed 14 new tours in 2017! Downtown, Neighborhood, Delaware District, and Beyond Buffalo walking tours expanded along with waterfront tours which included a Disasters of the Harbor boat tour on the Miss Buffalo, in partnership with the Buffalo Harbor Museum!

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

| 2014 - 6,219 | 2015 - 13,268 | 2016 - 17,281 | 2017 - 18,994 |



| 14 NEW TOURS | 87 DIFFERENT TOUR OFFERINGS | 197 VOLUNTEERS AND DOCENTS |

ADULT PROGRAMMING 2017

- New Traveling Guest Speaker Program
- 4th Bi-Annual Adventures in Buffalo History Speaker Series
- Winter & Fall Engage Buffalo Architecture Course
- Docent Training Program



Our Volunteers

Explore Buffalo is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization. Our 197 volunteers give their time to the organization as tour docents and chaperones, special event volunteers, and Explore Buffalo representatives at festivals and tabling events!

All of our docents are volunteers who complete rigorous training courses offered multiple times a year. Many docents learn multiple tours, create new tours, and train others!

In addition to our educational outreach through tours and special programming, this year our entire organization worked to give back to WNY communities in new ways. We participated in the 2017 United Way Day of Caring, hosted a winter clothing drive to benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, and gave over \$2,000 in donations to local non-profit fundraisers. We couldn't do any of it without our amazing volunteers!

Nearly 200 volunteers & growing!

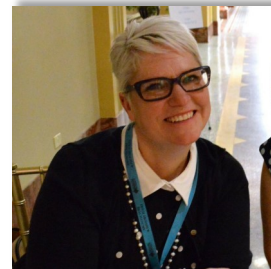
2017 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS



Chuck LaChiusa
VBN Beacon Award
Volunteer of the Year



Larry Mruk
Volunteer of the Year



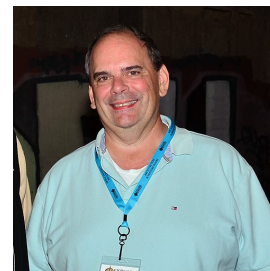
Bonnie Blatner
Rookie of the Year



Rose Furlage
Director's Award for Service



Cindy Gorski
Director's Award for Leadership



Jim Mayer
Director's Award for Excellence

Our Reach

In our fifth year, the Explore Buffalo name is now a recognizable brand!

Almost 30,000 people are following us on social media!



10.6k

EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS



10.9k

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



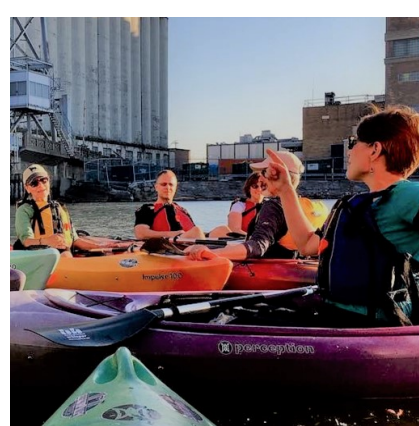
7k

FACEBOOK
LIKES



2.1k

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

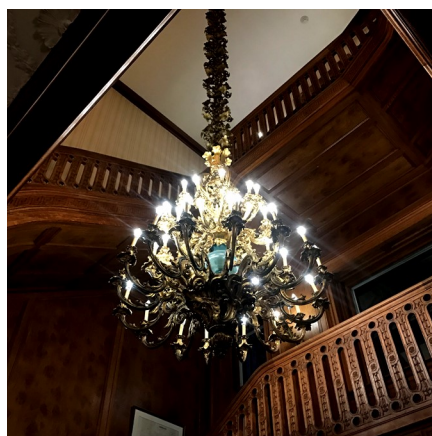
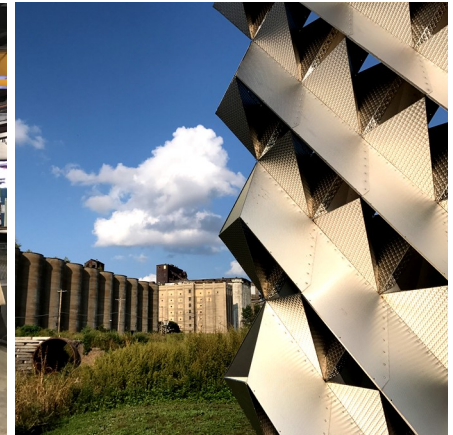


2017 CORPORATE PARTNER EVENT SERIES

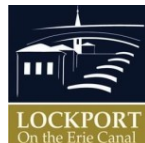
The Explore Buffalo Corporate Partnership Program provides benefits to participating companies in the form of exclusive networking events, tour passes for clients and employees, and public recognition.

2017 Event Series Highlights

| BUFFALO ARTS STUDIO | RIGIDIZED METALS CORPORATION | BUTLER MANSION |



2017 CORPORATE PARTNERS



2017 EVENT SPONSORS

Carmina Wood Morris

Chicago Title

DelVecchio & Stadler

Elevator Alley Kayak

Evans Bank

Frandina Engineering & Land Surveying

Grayline Niagara Falls/Buffalo

Hearing & Speech of WNY

Regan Landscape

Rigidized Metals Corporation

The Barrel Factory

Winthrop Partners

2017 DONORS

Annual Campaign & Education Fund

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Kathleen Barber
Annette Baumler*
Lee Broad*
Theresa Brown
Tim & Mary Lou Butler
Charles Campbell*
Judith Casassa
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Maria Mozzetti-Stock
Monica Summers*
Catherine Urbanski
Kate Wagner*
Kate Wallace
Susan Walko
Joe Wasik*
Robert Wetter*
Freda Zecher-Tropp

In Honor of Ron Eaton:
Mary Ellen Dye
R. Scott DeLuca

In Honor of Paul & Cindy Gorski:
Liz Kolken

In Honor of Chuck LaChiusa:
Michael Swart*

In Honor of Wayne Minear:
Joseph Kirby

In Honor of Ellen Mruk:
Anonymous
Eleanor Ash*
Ron * & Linda Eaton
Linda Grau
Beverly & Timothy Kan
Chuck* & Nancy* LaChiusa
Lynette Meslinsky*
Edie & Dave Moskal
Alan M. Olczak
Williamsville East HS Softball Team

In Honor of Scott Ryan Pollack:
Kathleen Pollack*

In Honor of Rose Sapienza:
Anonymous

In Honor of Robert Wetter:
Richard & Janet Wetter

In Honor of Explore Buffalo Staff:
Elena Delgado

* Explore Buffalo Volunteer
Please excuse any errors or omissions.



*Thank
You*

Explore Buffalo



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