



2018 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM *the Director*

In the fall of 2018, Explore Buffalo celebrated a successful fifth year of providing educational programs and tours in the Buffalo community. Our tours were prominently featured in a travel profile of Buffalo in *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as in *The Washington Post*, *Cleveland Scene*, and other media outlets. For the first time, annual attendance crossed 20,000 people - ending with total attendance of more than 23,917 people at our many tours, events, and programs. We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteers, partners, and supporters for their help in achieving these milestones in 2018.

With three docent training classes and our volunteer orientation program, we continue to recruit and train extraordinary volunteers who are passionate about promoting Buffalo. For the third year in a row, an Explore Buffalo volunteer - Ron Eaton - was recognized as the Tourism Volunteer of the Year at Visit Buffalo Niagara's Beacon Awards. The enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers is what enables Explore Buffalo to expand its impact each year.

Explore Buffalo's exceptional staff deserves recognition for the incredible work that they do to manage and coordinate our organization's many programs. We are proud to see Deputy Director Olivia McCarthy recognized as a Buffalo Business First 30 Under 30 award recipient and Education Coordinator Paige Melin recognized as a BN360 Spotlight Professional. This recognition is well deserved!

Looking ahead to 2019, we are especially excited about Doors Open Buffalo on June 15. Having seen the success of similar events in other cities, we expect Doors Open Buffalo to have a major impact on downtown and on Buffalo's brand as an architectural tourism destination. We also are planning exciting new tours and events for this coming tour season, as we continue to provide opportunities to explore new neighborhoods and topics. We look forward to seeing you at an event or tour this year!

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Chuck LaChiusa

VICE PRESIDENT
Cindy Gorski

TREASURER
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STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brad Hahn

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Olivia McCarthy

EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Paige Melin

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Cheryl McDonald

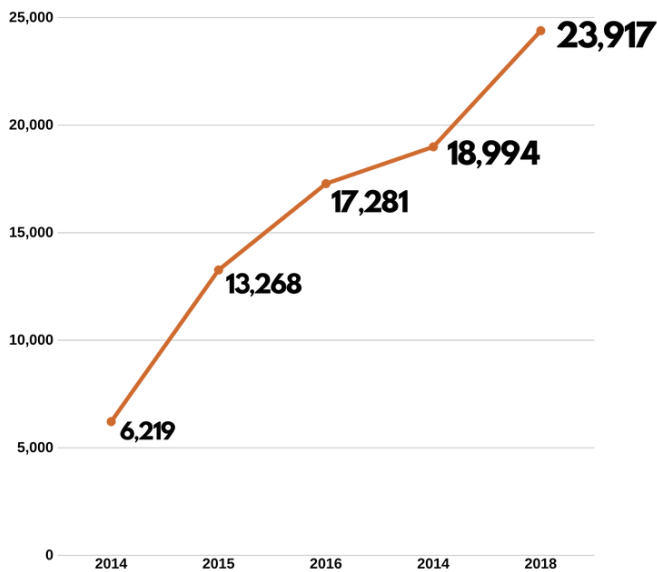
ACCOUNTANT
Colleen Kwiatkowski

DOORS OPEN BUFFALO MANAGER
Suzanne Ernst

Educating Learners of All Ages

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

8 NEW TOURS | 93 DIFFERENT TOUR OFFERINGS | NEARLY 200 VOLUNTEERS AND DOCENTS



NEW & EXPANDED TOURS

- 1-Hour tours of Canalside & Lafayette Square
- Prohibition Cruise on the Miss Buffalo II
- Niagara Street Industrial Heritage Walking Tour
- Beyond Buffalo: Williamsville and Orchard Park Walking Tours
- Food Tours of Downtown Chippewa Street and the Village of Hamburg

2018 ADULT PROGRAMMING

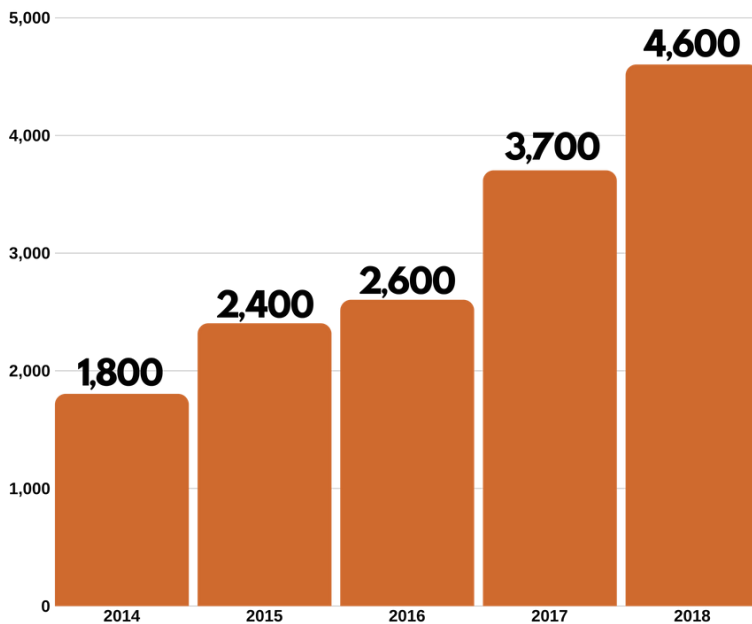
- NEW Buffalo Teacher & Resource Center Course
- Traveling Guest Speaker Program
- 5th Annual Adventures in Buffalo History Winter Speaker Series
- Buffalo History Course
- Docent Training Programs



Igniting Curious Minds

SCHOOL TOUR ATTENDANCE

SERVED 19 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS ERIE, NIAGARA, & CATTARAUGUS COUNTIES



K-12: 3,436

Free Tours: 947

College: 815

Workshops: 600

EDU attendance #s

YOUTH PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

- Scouts BSA Architecture Merit Badge Workshop *in partnership with the Darwin Martin House*
- Explore the Summer Free Family Tours at Canalside
- Architecture & Use Outreach Workshop

FORGING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

- Buffalo Public Schools & First Student Transportation
- The University at Buffalo's Social Impact Fellows Program
- Arts Partners for Learning through Young Audiences of WNY
- Niagara Frontier Council for the Social Studies
- Darwin Martin House *through the Scouts BSA Architecture Merit Badge Workshop*
- Erie Canalways National Heritage Corridor and the NYS Canal Corporation



Our Volunteers

Explore Buffalo is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization. Nearly 200 volunteers give their time to our organization as tour docents and tour assistants, 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!

2018 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

**VISIT BUFFALO NIAGARA BEACON
AWARD: VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Ron Eaton

**EXPLORE BUFFALO
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Donnie Gibson

**EXPLORE BUFFALO DIRECTOR'S
AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP**

Cindy Pearson

**EXPLORE BUFFALO DIRECTOR'S
AWARD FOR SERVICE**

Michele Siwinski

**EXPLORE BUFFALO
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

Sandy Boag

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!



11.6k

EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS



14k

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



8.2k

FACEBOOK
LIKES



2.3k

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

2018 Partnership Program



2018 Event Sponsors



2018 DONORS & GRANTS

Annual Campaign & Education Fund

Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund
at the Community Foundation for
Greater Buffalo

To support Doors Open Buffalo 2019

Humanities NY Vision Grant

*To support the creation Michigan St.
African American Heritage Corridor
School Tour*

The Leveler Foundation Grant

*To support & purchase material for
our classroom & youth education
programs*

Erie Canalway Heritage Fund

*To support the Explore the Summer at
Canalside free family programming*



Catharine Ackerson*
Eleanor Ash*
Kathy Barber*
Marianne Barton
Jenna Bichler-Cross*
Hadar Borden*
Helen Brady*
Charles Campbell*
Judy Casassa
Cheryl Collier*
Rosemary Conley
Paul & Trish Coppola*
Celine Crabbe*
Mark Criden*
Debra Czaprynski*
Dr. John Campbell & Dr. Heidi Crow
Ron Eaton*
Linda Eaton
John Fagant*
Alison Fleischmann
Patricia Frey
Rose Furlage*
Dennis Galucki
Donnie Gibson*
Cindy & Paul Gorski*
Becky Greenwald*

Deborah Grenier*
Brad Hahn*
Debra Hall-Stonish*
Carol Hamm
Cynthia Hammond*
Gemma Marie Hanson
Ed & Karen Healy
Duncan Hemink*
Michael & Ellen Henry
Marie Hornbuckle
Tony & Cheryl House*
Shirley Hudders
Sharon Hyland
Ali Jafari*
Skip & Betty Johnson*
John & Jane Kearns
Nancy Kelly*
Debra & Will Keresztes
Drew Kinder*
Josesphy & Peggy Kirby
Merridy Knips*
Karl & Linda Kovacs*
Geraldine Kozlowski
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Colette Kurzias
Chuck LaChiusa*
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Michael McGreevy
Harry Meyer*
Christine Miller
Wayne Minear*
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Thomas Mudra*
Mary Murdock*
Tim Nold*
Annette Nuding

Paul & Sue Owens
Ann Palmer*
Karen Penziul*
Barbara Peterson*
Kathleen Pollack
Bren Price*
Denise Prince*
Gail Proctor*
Susan Robinson*
David Rock*
Susan Weber Rosche
Barry Safier
Jerome Schell
Jennifer Schreier*
Judy Sikora*
Cynthia & David Silverstein
Michele Siwinski*
Sara Skerker
Donna & Larry Slanovich
Sally Smith
Cheryl Stasio*
Michael Stock*
Lawrence Stout
Karen Streech*
Carolyn Strozyk*
Monica Summers*
Mike & Mary Swart*
Gary Szakmary*
C. Richard Thompson
Terence & Dr. Gail Upton
Susan Walko
Mary K. Wallace
Joe Wasik*
Roger & Diana Weiss*
Bob & Judy Wetter*
Richard & Janet Wetter
Sue White*
William Zach



* Explore Buffalo Volunteer
Please excuse any errors or omissions

Explore Buffalo

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.



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