



2020 & 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Explore Buffalo is an organization based on the idea of bringing people together. When the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, it presented a challenge far more serious than any we could have anticipated. That challenge turned out to be an opportunity for the creativity and dedication of our staff and volunteers to shine. We began to offer a series of online programs that continued our mission of education about Buffalo's history and architecture and, four months later, we resumed outdoor tours. We found that these online programs and outdoor tours helped to fill a need for people to come together safely and connect with their community.

Now two years into this pandemic, we continue to innovate new ways to approach our mission as we incrementally resume tours and programs. Our talented staff team has done incredible work to create new content and programs, and to coordinate and communicate changes to existing programs. We've learned how to do many of our core activities in new ways, from a virtual Winter Gala in 2021 to hybrid training classes for our docents and tour assistants. In 2021, we celebrated the return of Doors Open Buffalo, with thousands of people enjoying a day of free tours of downtown landmarks. **All of this has been made possible by our extraordinary volunteers, who have led more than 2,000 tours and programs over the past two years.** This includes 18 new tours that have been created across our region, including new Community Cultural Tours that promote a greater understanding of WNY's diverse communities.

Over the past two years, Explore Buffalo has been sustained by generous support from our community as tour revenue fell dramatically and has remained well below pre-pandemic levels. We are extremely grateful to the many donors, Explorer Pass members, sponsors, and foundations who have provided financial support through this challenging time. **The support from our community in 2020 and 2021 has shown the extraordinary value of Explore Buffalo in our community.** We are optimistic about the opportunities to tell Buffalo's stories in the year ahead, and we look forward to seeing you on a tour soon!



Brad Hahn
Executive Director



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2021 EXPLORING NEW TOURS

16,204

TOUR & PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

15

NEW
TOURS

1,302

PUBLIC
TOURS

Community Cultural Tours

presented by  **Uniland**

Launched in 2021, Community Cultural Tours provide programs about the diverse history and culture of their own community and promote a greater understanding of WNY's diverse communities. We're working to develop stronger relationships with local organizations to expand our understanding of what makes Buffalo such a unique place to live.

HISPANIC HERITAGE DISTRICT TOUR
BREWSTER ST. REFUGEE FARM TOUR WITH JOURNEY'S END
JEWISH CEMETERY TOUR



STAYING CONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITY





DOORS OPEN BUFFALO 2021



EXPLORE BUFFALO PRESENTS

DOORS OPEN BUFFALO

35

DOWNTOWN
BUILDINGS

275

EVENT
VOLUNTEERS

6,398

EVENT
ATTENDEES

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Council on
the Arts

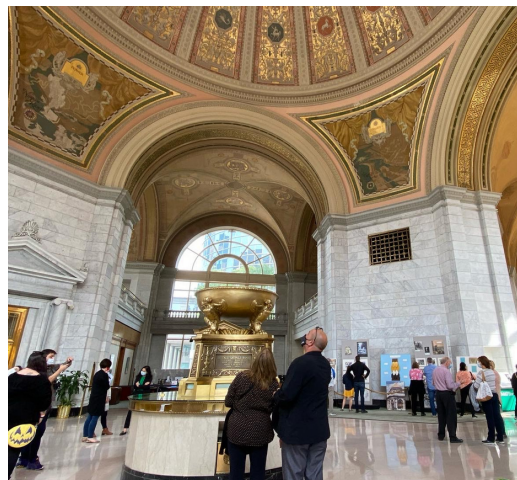
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THE BUFFALO NEWS



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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.

 One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY 14201

 716-345-3032

 explore@explorebuffalo.org

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