



GBCA General Meeting Notes 10/10/13 Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens

5-5:30: Mingle

5:30: Welcome; GBCA Mission and Vision

Vision:

The Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance envisions a community that values arts and culture and the integral role they will play in our region's future.

Mission:

The mission of the Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance is to harness the aggregate resources of our cultural organizations to position arts, culture and creativity as critical **community assets** and **priority areas** for public and private investment and engagement.

Together we are the grass-roots voice of the arts & cultural community.

Thanks to the GBCA Steering Committee Members who have stepped forward to take a turn providing leadership for our work together and that our effectiveness hinges on the engagement of everyone.

5:45: Reports from the Field

Buffalo & Erie Botanical Gardens

Presented by David Swarts, Executive Director

Overview of the Garden's history. Followed by an Advocacy Committee Update.

Advocacy Committee Update

Presented by David Swarts, Co-Chair

- It is important to share candidate surveys (which will be updated for the general election).
- Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz will release his 2014 proposed budget on October 15; the first Tuesday in December the Erie County Legislature will adopt the budget. It is crucial to send letters to the County Executive and Erie County Legislature to thank for the inclusion for cultural funding. Contact ASI for a full list of elected officials.

- Letters should also be sent to United State Senators regarding the cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts.

Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY

Presented by Casimiro Rodriguez, Executive Director

Overview of the organization and current projects, the Hispanic Heritage Corridor, and Hispanic History Month (see PowerPoint).

6-6:30: Main Presentation: Using Data for Effective Advocacy

Presented by Katie Ingersoll, New York State Cultural Data Project Representative

- Stories and data are needed for good advocacy (Emotional connection + Impact).
- What does the economic impact of your organization (or the sector) equate to in real terms (gas, rent, etc.)?
- Combine intrinsic value of the arts into their Return on Investment (ROI).
- See PowerPoint for detailed information.

6:30-6:40: GBCA Committee Updates

Membership Committee (Cori Wolff & Liz Van Verth) – GBCA mixer/outing at Just Buffalo Literary Center’s BABEL season opener on October 22; Members/Friends/Allies can sign up to receive a free ticket to the event where we will meet and sit together to represent GBCA.

6:45: End

Save the Date for next General Meeting on 1/23/14, location TBD. Sign up for BABEL event tickets, Sign up for FREE 14-16” Flat Screen Monitors (donated by HSBC), share Candidate Survey (available at asiwny.org), Like GBCA & ASI on Facebook.

TOUR of the Buffalo Botanical Gardens