

**GBCA General Meeting Notes**  
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historical Site  
Thursday, February 20, 2014  
5:30-7:00pm

INTRO AND WELCOME – Liz Van Verth and Randy Kramer

KEY UPDATES

- Advocacy – David Swarts
  - We need to keep up with our relationships with the Erie County Executive and Legislature. We have a new majority this year and need to make sure they still receive our message. Many people did not turn up at the budget hearings this year. We need to make sure we always have a presence, even during times of no crisis.
- Awareness/Membership including Buffalo Tours Buffalo – Liz Van Verth
  - Buffalo Tours Buffalo is like a cash mob for cultural organizations. It provides a way to learn more about other organizations and each other. The first event will take place Sunday, March 23 at the Colored Musicians Club. Like the Buffalo Tours Buffalo Facebook page for updates:  
<https://www.facebook.com/BuffaloToursBuffalo>

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 in increase our inclusiveness, democracy, and access. One of the main reasons that Buffalo stood out is because of the heavy arts and culture component to our grant application. We need to make sure we continue to integrate the cultural sector into Open Buffalo
- Arts Services Initiative of Western New York – Tod Kniazuk
  - Buffalo River Programming Grants are out. They are due February 26, 2014 for programs and performances at sites along the Buffalo River.
  - ASI is working as a sub-contractor of Global Spectrum on Canalside. The application for programming is now out, with a first round deadline of March 15. If you wish to program at Canalside for the summer we recommend you get your application in before then.
  - We will be hosting more training sessions this year with one on the Nonprofit Revitalization Act. Look for more information about them on our website or newsletter.
  - Please promote Arts Access if your organization is a part of it, or consider joining if your organization is not participating. We are always looking for more organizations to join and to spread the word.
  - ASI will be revamping the arts council's old Arts Awards with the Cultural Awards this year. The awards will take place the evening of Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at Pearl @ Lafayette. Nominations for the awards are out and are due Monday, March 31, 2014.

## GBCA STRATEGIC PLAN – Ted Pietrzak

- The sector was questioned about what they want to see from GBCA and what they like. Several themes and six goals came emerged from the data that was collected:
  - Themes: governance, planning, awareness, advocacy, membership.
  - Goal 1: Top caliber volunteer leadership is recruited and retained for the GBCA Steering Committee which provides leadership for the overall effort.
  - Goal 2: A cultural plan that integrates arts & culture into all aspects of planning at the regional, municipal and neighborhood levels.
  - Goal 3: An organization that effectively assesses issues, leads discussions, engages in dialogue, develops positions, and creates policies.
  - Goal 4: An organization known for its effectiveness at promoting awareness of the importance and value of arts and culture, and for framing effective messages to support GBCA's goals.
  - Goal 5: A leading advocacy organization for Erie County working in collaboration with other organizations to achieve goals that strengthen arts & culture in the region.
  - Goal 6: An organization with a membership that is energized, informed, and wanting to participate and mobilize; a group of diverse and dedicated individuals and allies that act collectively.
- This plan is important because we want to not only work on specific tasks each season, but to really change the way that arts & culture is valued and prioritized in this community. We need to move the needle so that in five or ten years the vision has become reality.
- The plan is posted on the GBCA website.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- Young Audiences of WNY's initiative, Arts Partners for Learning, will be having a professional development conference March 1. YAWNY has a fundraiser on April 16. March 26 is national Young Audiences week. People can now submit program proposals to APL. They are in need of more diverse teaching artists.
- Hispanic Heritage Council's Bring Us Your History project is now up to 40 stories total. HHC is going to have a Cinco de Mayo celebration and a fundraiser in June.
- Sugar City received a \$30,000 grant from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. They will be moving into their new home soon. They have a few events coming up that are listed on their website.
- Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra toured in Florida and will be releasing a new CD. They have a free concert this week with the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra.
- Ted Pietrzak is helping to organize an Arts & Wellness talk at Daemen College on March 5.

Save the date for next General Meeting Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at MusicalFare Theatre.