



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Theresa Woehrel

**PHONE:** 716.881.0917 **EMAIL:** [theresa@yawny.org](mailto:theresa@yawny.org)

## **Arts Education Initiative Seeks Proposals for Cultural Programming**

**BUFFALO, NY (04/20/12)** – Arts Partners for Learning (*APL*), a collaborative arts education initiative, is seeking proposals from Western New York cultural organizations for programming to be included in its pilot year. Managed by Young Audiences WNY, *APL*'s goals are to expand access to arts education for children in the eight counties of Western New York and improve the capacity of cultural organizations in these counties to provide quality creative learning programs. A Request for Proposals (RFP) document is available online at [www.yawny.org/apl](http://www.yawny.org/apl), and the deadline for proposal submission is May 10, 2012.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of educators and cultural educators, and programming partners will be announced by June 15. Through inclusion in diverse marketing efforts and increased organizational capacity, participating organizations will have the opportunity to receive increased earned income. Selected programs will be marketed with mailings and emails to all schools in the eight counties of WNY and featured on *APL*'s new website, which is currently in final design stages. Additionally, professional development for participating organizations will be offered in August 2012.

"*APL* is focused on increasing capacity for the educational art organizations and the experience of learning through the arts for the children in Western New York," said Young Audiences Director of Education and *APL* Program Manager, Carla Marrasso. "We anticipate quality programs to be submitted from arts education and cultural organizations that will not only continue to assist in this goal, but also work with Arts Partners to continue to promote the importance of experiential learning."

Eligible programs include long-term residencies, collaborative program creation in partnership with educators, single hands-on workshops, docent tours, performances, and field trip destinations.

Two informational drop-in sessions will be hosted in the Young Audiences WNY office for organizations interested in learning more about the RFP process and about the *APL* initiative. Young Audiences WNY is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Buffalo & Erie County Central Library at 1 Lafayette Square in Buffalo.

### **RFP Informational Drop-In Sessions:**

Monday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m.

### **ABOUT ARTS PARTNERS FOR LEARNING**

Young Audiences of Western New York, the region's leading arts education provider, has received funding to lead the creation and management of *Arts Partners for Learning (APL)*. The initiative is designed to expand and improve arts education programming in rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout Western New York. *APL* has named a "Leadership Team" comprised of leaders in the fields of education and arts education, representing communities throughout the eight counties of WNY, to set goals and guide the initiative's implementation.

*APL* is based on Arts Partners coalitions that have been successfully established and managed by Young Audiences affiliates across the country. Through a united cultural community, and administrative support structures provided by the Young Audiences network, arts organizations, individual artists, and professional artist groups have secured significant leverage to support work with specific school districts to improve the education provided to children.



# Young Audiences Western New York

*Local support for APL has been secured from The Fund for the Arts, The John R. Oishei Foundation, and Young Audiences, Inc., a network of 30 Young Audiences affiliates.*

*Additional information, including a listing of Leadership Team members is available online at <http://www.yawny.org/apl>.*