



Young Audiences Western New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING TEACHER TRAINING IN DOWNTOWN BUFFALO

BUFFALO, NY (6/16/11) – Young Audiences WNY has opened registration for its annual teacher training event, the Patricia Cotsen Arts Abilities Conference. Now in its fifth year, the conference has expanded to include multi-day sessions and opportunities for teachers and artists to collaborate on creating curriculum. The 2011 conference will take place from August 10-12, and will be hosted at the downtown Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Just Buffalo Literary Center and the Western New York Book Arts Center.

The Patricia Cotsen Arts Abilities Conference was created by Young Audiences WNY to provide educators with innovative and applicable techniques for creating an engaging learning environment through the arts. The conference focuses on utilizing arts integration strategies – across all curriculum topics – as a tool for supporting young people at risk of educational failure.

“With Buffalo’s graduation rate decreasing to 47% this year, our conference comes at a very critical time for our region,” said Cynn timer Gaasch, Executive Director of Young Audiences WNY. “Arts integration in the classroom has an established record of success with youth at risk of educational failure. Our strength is providing educators with effective resources for improving academic achievement.”

Throughout the conference teachers will experience outstanding arts integration programs through participation in interactive performances, group workshops, and facilitated discussion. Each afternoon, participants will work directly with an experienced teaching artist to create curriculum that may be implemented in their classroom.

Expansion of the conference has allowed Young Audiences to partner with other arts education providers and institutions to bring more comprehensive and diverse information to its participants. This year’s event will feature the work of CEPA Gallery and Just Buffalo Literary Center, while also presenting educational resources of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and the Western New York Book Arts Center.

Registration is \$60 per person and includes lunch on Wednesday and Thursday. Conference participation contributes teacher’s 175-hour requirement for New York State Professional Development Standards, and all necessary documentation will be provided. Registration and additional information are available online at www.yawny.org or by calling 716.881.0917.

The 5th Annual Patricia Cotsen Arts Abilities Conference is presented by Young Audiences of Western New York in collaboration with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, CEPA Gallery, Just Buffalo Literary Center, and the Western New York Book Arts Center. Support for this event is provided by the Marks Family Foundation.

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES: Young Audiences of Western New York is a not-for-profit arts-in-education organization whose mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. This mission is fulfilled every day within the eight counties of Western New York with performances, workshops, and residencies in educational, cultural, and community centers. In operation for 49 years, Young Audiences’ teaching artists support children learning core curriculum subjects through the arts, with over 100,000 artist contacts for children and families each year. Visit www.yawny.org for more information about Young Audiences of Western New York.

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