



# Young Audiences Western New York

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** -- CONTACT: Theresa Woehrel / 716.881.0917 / [theresa@yawny.org](mailto:theresa@yawny.org)

## **US HOUSE & SENATE RESOLUTIONS DESIGNATE NATIONAL YOUNG AUDIENCES WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 12**

*President anticipated to make official statement*

**BUFFALO, NY (3/9/12)** – Young Audiences of Western New York is pleased to announce that the United States Senate and House of Representatives have issued resolutions designating March 12-16, 2012 as “National Young Audiences Week,” honoring the contributions that Young Audiences programs have made in enriching the lives of students, teachers, volunteers, families and communities nationwide. President Obama is anticipated to make an official statement.

"I'd like to commend Young Audiences of Western New York for bringing the arts into young people's lives in a meaningful and lasting way," said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. "Through your programs and leadership, children are given creative opportunities that they may not have otherwise experienced. You are truly enriching the lives of our youth."

To celebrate this designation, Young Audiences of Western New York will be hosting a rally on Thursday, March 15 in collaboration with Waterfront Elementary. Waterfront is a partner school that collaborates with Young Audiences on a whole school model of arts-integration. The rally will feature notable guest speakers and a school-wide performance by renowned dance company LehrerDance.

The Senate resolution states that arts education, "including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students." The resolution also emphasizes that the arts not only foster academic success, but also support personal growth by developing critical thinking, problem solving skills, creativity, discipline, and cross-cultural understanding.

National Young Audiences Week will be observed around the country by Young Audiences affiliates in 20 states with events, school activities, and speakers to promote awareness for its arts-in-education programs. The organization brings 5,000 professional artists to over 6,000 schools and community centers annually with performances and artist residencies. The congressional declarations also coincide with the organization's 60th anniversary celebration this year. The Western New York affiliate celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service in 2012-2013.

In addition to the Congressional resolution, Erie County Legislator Lynn Marinelli, Chairperson of the Community Enrichment Committee of the Legislature, has issued a Proclamation from the County, and Buffalo Councilmembers Michael LoCurto and David Rivera have co-sponsored a Proclamation from the City, celebrating the organization's achievements locally.

*Young Audiences, Inc., founded in 1952, is the nation's leading source of arts-in-education services. Its mission is to inspire young people and expand their learning through the arts, serving over 5 million students annually through a national network of 32 affiliates, which includes Young Audiences of Western New York. Locally, 60,000 young people are served each year with programs in school after school, and in the community. Visit [www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org) or call 716.881.0917 to learn more about bringing a Young Audiences WNY program to your school, after school, or community venue.*

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**ATTACHMENTS: Quote Sheet, Program Sample**

**1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203 – 716-881-0917 – [www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org)**



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## QUOTES ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES OF WESTERN NEW YORK

### Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

"I'd like to commend Young Audiences of Western New York for bringing the arts into young people's lives in a meaningful and lasting way. Through your programs and leadership, children are given creative opportunities that they may not have otherwise experienced. You are truly enriching the lives of our youth."

### Legislator Lynn Marinelli

"Young Audiences introduces students to the diversity and depth of our cultural tapestry. These students will become our next generation of arts patrons, and this "paying it forward" legacy is one of the greatest contributions of a well-designed arts-in-education program."

### Councilmember Michael LoCurto

"I would like to thank Young Audiences of Western New York for all its hard work and wish them all the best during National Young Audiences Week. I am happy to work with the organization to help bring its unique, valuable programming to students in the city of Buffalo and the Delaware District."

### Councilmember David Rivera

"I've had a chance to witness the joy that a Young Audiences workshop brings to schools and after-school programs here in the Niagara District. Youth are engaged and energized by their interactions with professional artists, and I am thrilled to be a supporter of Young Audiences of Western New York."

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## EXCERPTS FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION

Full resolution is available at <http://www.yawny.org/sites/default/files/BILLS-112hres574ih.pdf>

### *Resolved by the Senate/House of Representatives –*

...honors and recognizes the contributions which Young Audiences programs have made in enriching the lives of students, teachers, volunteers, families and communities and pays tribute to arts-in-education and its contribution to society.

...encourages the people of the United States to observe National Young Audiences Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role that arts-in-education plays in enriching the education of our young people and enriching our society as a whole.

**Whereas** arts education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature design, and visual art, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students

**Whereas** arts education enables students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express feelings and ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, which supports academic success across the curriculum as well as personal growth outside the classroom



# Young Audiences Western New York

## **MAKING AN IMPACT**

This is an example of one week of our programming in Western New York.

### **Monday, March 12, 2012- In School Programs**

Rodney Appleby, *Songs of Slavery* at Dr. Charles Drew Science Magnet School 59. Buffalo.

Sherry Robbins, *Journeys & Journals: Travel on the Erie Canal*, H. O. Brumsted Elementary School, Holland.

Jose Luis Chang, *Architecture + Education Classroom Collaborative*, Dr. Charles Drew Science Magnet School 59. Buffalo.

### **Monday, March 12, 2012- After School Programs**

LehrerDance, *Become a SuperDancer 5678!*, Concerned Ecumenical Ministries St. John's Grace Site, Buffalo.

Cindy Hanna, *Keep It Moving*, Community Action Organization Pratt Site, Buffalo.

### **Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – In School Programs**

Cindy Hanna and Jenny May, *Phonics Program: Alphabet Awareness*, Dr. Charles Drew Science Magnet School 90, Buffalo.

Rodney Appleby, *Songs of Slavery*, Waterfront Elementary School 95. Buffalo.

Gerald Mead, Mail Art, Alexander Hamilton Elementary, Tonawanda.

### **Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – After School Programs**

LehrerDance, *Become a SuperDancer 5678!* Riverside High School, Buffalo.

Kris Crosson, *Hands On Ar.*, Heritage Centers, Buffalo.

Differential Flavor Crew, *Art of Breakdancing*, Community Action Organization Martin Luther King School 37 Site, Buffalo.

Sarah Haykel, *Salsa for the Soul*, Community Action Organization McKinley High School Site. Buffalo.

### **Wednesday, March 14, 2012 – In School Programs**

Dramatic Solutions and the Wondermakers, *Mathemagic!*, Blasdell Elementary School, Blasdell.

Robert Garlow, *Architecture + Education Classroom Collaborative*, Charter School of Applied Technologies, Buffalo.

Sherry Robbins, *Journeys & Journals: Travel on the Erie Canal*, H. O. Brumsted Elementary School, Holland.

### **Wednesday, March 14, 2012 – After School Programs**

Eric Crittenden, *Critt's Juke Joint*, Community Action Organization Nurture JFK Site, Buffalo.

Annette Daniels Taylor, *Stories Through the Microphone*, Community Action Organization Nurture Pratt Site, Buffalo.

Christy Zucarelli, *Creative Journaling*, Community Action Organization Nurture Angola Site. Angola.

Sarah Haykel, *Salsa Dancing for Exercise and Nutrition*, Community Action Organization Nurture Ed Saunders Site, Buffalo.

### **Thursday, March 15, 2012 In School Programs**

Cindy Hanna and Jenny May, *Phonics Program: Alphabet Awareness*, Waterfront Elementary School 95, Buffalo.

Melissa Kate, *Erie Canal Traveling Museum*, Waterfront Elementary School, Buffalo.

Robert Garlow, *Architecture + Education Classroom Collaborative*, Waterfront Elementary School 95, Buffalo.

Kyoko Roszmann, *Origami Workshop*, H. O. Brumsted Elementary School, Holland.

### **Thursday, March 15, 2012 After School Programs**

Sarah Haykel, *Salsa Dancing for Exercise and Nutrition* Riverside High School, Buffalo.

Rodney Appleby, *Music for Life*, Community Action Organization McKinley High School Site, Buffalo.

Differential Flavor Crew, *Art of Breakdancing*, Community Action Organization Nurture Pratt Site, Buffalo.

### **Friday, March 16, 2012 In School Programs**

Glenn Colton, *Character Education Show*, Starpoint Intermediate School, Lockport.

LeBallet Touba, *African Dance Workshop*, Dr. Charles Drew Science Magnet School 59, Buffalo.

Robert Garlow, *Architecture + Education Classroom Collaborative*, Waterfront Elementary School 95, Buffalo.

Sherry Robbins, *Journeys & Journals: Travel on the Erie Canal* H. O. Brumsted Elementary School, Holland.

Jose Luis Chang, *Architecture + Education Classroom Collaborative*, Dr. Charles Drew Science Magnet School 59, Buffalo.

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