

From the Business First:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2012/01/19/young-audiences-seeks-space-at.html>

Young audiences seeks space at downtown library

Business First by Tracey Drury, Buffalo Business First Reporter

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2012, 2:45pm EST

Related:

[Human Resources](#)



[Tracey Drury](#)

Buffalo Business First Reporter - *Business First*

[Email](#)

An experiment begun two years ago to sublease space to nonprofit groups at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library may be expanding.

Library board members Thursday afternoon will consider a plan to lease the former teen room, a 1,350-square-foot space on the second floor of the central library, to Young Audiences of WNY, a nonprofit group that provides creative learning opportunities through the arts. The move would take place by Feb. 24.

The agreement also gives the agency meeting and performance space in the library's 375-seat auditorium as needed.

Two years ago, Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County and Project Flight LLC moved into space on the second floor, bringing staff and programs inside the library. That partnership was developed in part from the library's literacy services master plan, designed to help address the needs of the community.

YAWNY contracts with arts professionals to provide programs in music, multi-media arts, theater, dance, and visual and literary arts. In 2010-2011, the organization served over 60,000 young people throughout the Western New York region. Founded in Buffalo in 1962, there are 30 Young Audiences affiliates across the country.

The arts group will move from Linwood Avenue in Buffalo, where it has leased space in the back of the Church of the Ascension.

Plans for the move arose during conversations last year between the library and the new Art Services Initiative of WNY and the John R. Oishei Foundation to explore additional collaborative opportunities as part of the library's "Reimagine" strategic planning process.

In addition to annual rent of \$2,400, the agency would provide in-kind services and programming valued at \$3,000-\$14,400 per year for the benefit of library patrons. Already, the organization has begun hosting performances, including a slam poetry event held on Jan. 17.

The agreement also calls for including YAWNY's future space needs in the library's space use assessment and renovation planning. The two groups would also collaboratively plan and implement fundraising endeavors.

Tracey Drury covers health/medical, nonprofits and insurance

