

Artpark receives cultural endowment funding

Part of Niagara County Legislature support for Arts & Culture Coalition of Niagara County



Niagara County 2nd District Legislator Michael Casale and Artpark & Company President Dave Wedekindt at a check presentation on Monday in Lewiston.

Niagara County 2nd District Legislator Michael Casale presented Artpark & Company President Dave Wedekindt with a check for \$81,880 on Monday outside of the Lewiston performing and visual arts venue.

Funding comes from the county's portion of Western Region Off-Track Betting Corp. funds.

At the Niagara County Legislature's March 24 session, legislators unanimously voted to approve a resolution in support of organizations in Niagara County through the use of cultural endowment funding.

The measure stated, "Whereas, cultural endowment funds help support numerous organizations across Niagara County that are important to local communities; and whereas, the various organizations and groups throughout Niagara County help with cultural enrichment programs for our community and citizens of all ages; and whereas, these organizations attract visitors from all over Western New York and from around the world, creating a significant economic impact in our communities; now, therefore, be it resolved that the Niagara County Legislature authorized the allocation of funding in the amount of \$295,000 for the Cultural Endowment Fund through the 2026 budget process; and be it further resolved that Niagara County supports the organizations listed below by appropriating \$295,000 from said Cultural Endowment Fund as follows:

- Artpark & Company, Lewiston: \$81,880; annual visitation (five-year average): 125,000
- Niagara Aquarium Foundation (d/b/a Aquarium of Niagara), Niagara Falls: \$62,170; annual visitation: 190,000
- Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown: \$23,452; annual visitation: 200,000
- Kenan Center, Lockport: \$24,910; annual visitation: 15,000
- Castellani Art Museum, Niagara University: \$8,548; annual visitation: 21,000
- Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara Falls: \$9,115; annual visitation: 23,000
- Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Commission, Niagara Falls: \$11,491; annual visitation: 15,000
- Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier (d/b/a Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum), North Tonawanda: \$7,792; annual visitation: 17,500
- The West Herr Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda: \$48,994; annual visitation: not provided
- Historic Palace Theatre, Lockport: \$16,648; annual visitation: not provided

Artpark

Artpark in Lewiston opened in 1974. Championed by New York State Sen. Earl W. Brydges, it is unique in the U.S. for combining a 150-acre state park and performing arts center.

It was envisioned as a space to enjoy live theatrical performances, concerts, dance, and the creation of visual, performance, and other experimental art in a scenic, accessible and family-oriented setting. The non-profit organization Artpark & Company operates the public programming at the park under a cooperative agreement with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It just signed a new, 20-year agreement.

Artpark & Company is committed to investing at least \$2 million in capital improvements to the state park over the life of the new cooperative agreement.

Last summer, Artpark & Company welcomed over 85,000 people to a wide variety of concerts, performing and visual arts events, festivals, art classes for children and adults.

It has nine full-time year-round employees; 200-plus seasonal workers; and about 80 community volunteers.

Artpark is a critical anchor for local businesses, tourism and regional identity. In terms of economic and community impact, Artpark & Company generates approximately \$13 million in annual economic impact for Lewiston, Niagara County and Western New York.

Casale said, "Artpark is one of a number of organizations in the Arts & Culture Coalition of Niagara County that offer cultural enrichment programs for citizens of all ages while attracting visitors from all over Western New York and around the world and creating a significant economic impact for Lewiston, Niagara County and the region."

Wedekindt said, "Artpark greatly appreciates the continued support of the Niagara County Legislature in making this funding possible, which helps to continue our programming for the community. And through the collaborative work with our partner arts and cultural organizations in Niagara County, we are all demonstrating that we not only make a significant economic impact, but also add to the quality of life for county residents."

Arts & Culture Coalition

The Arts & Culture Coalition of Niagara County formed in the fall of 2022 to address the need for support for the arts and cultural community. It strives to emphasize the economic, educational and community significance of its constituents.

Representatives from the Arts & Culture Coalition of Niagara County include the Aquarium of Niagara, Artpark & Company, Castellani Art Museum, Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, Historic Palace Theatre, Kenan Center, Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, Old Fort Niagara, West Herr Riviera Theatre.

Artpark

2026 Season Events

May

- 28 Elmo's Got The Moves
- 29 Ryan Bingham and The Texas Gentlemen

June

- 20 16th Annual Artpark Fairy House Festival + Fairy Tea Party

July

- 10 Femmes Of Rock with The Fabulous USA Band & Second Hand News
- 11 Ziggy Marley with J Boog
- 13-24 Artpark Artcamps - Session 1: 7/13-7/17
Session 2: 7/20-7/24
- 14 Sarah McLachlan with Allison Russell
- 15 Blackberry Smoke with Jason Newsted & The Chophouse Band
- 17 Legacy in Motion: Celebrating Miles Davis at 100: Jon Lehrer Dance Company and John Bacon & Star People
- 19 Candlelight Concert - *proceeds benefit Artpark & the BPO*
- 22 Shakey Graves + Dope Lemon with TEXINO
- 23 DJO with Pond
- 30 Cole Swindell

August

- 4 Tori Amos with Barteas Strange
- 6 Gov't Mule and JJ Grey & Mofro
- 12 Howard Jones with Wang Chung, The English Beat, Modern English & hosted by Richard Blade
- 14 Turnpike Troubadours w/Muscadine Bloodline & The Creekers
- 21 Andy Grammer with Walk Off The Earth
- 22 Analog Rewind Concert - *Fundraiser for Artpark Bridges*
- 26 The Rock Orchestra: Arena Of Fire

September

- 2 Sierra Ferrell: Heavy Petal Tour with The Brudi Brothers
- 3 Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening
- 5 5th Annual Better Off Read Summer Book Festival
- 12 O.A.R. Three Decades Tour with Gavin DeGraw & KT Tunstall
- 17 Roger Daltrey - A Great Night Out
- 18 Stories by the Fire
- 22 Ray LaMontagne - Trouble 20th Anniversary Tour
- 29 Charley Crockett with Durand Jones & The Indications

Multiple Dates:

Creations & Libations (21+): Wine & Wheels & Mojitos and Mosaics
Free: Sensing Here & Now - Artpark's Memory Cafe Series, One Yoga, Wonder Wednesdays and Mindful Mondays

Visit artpark.net for more info

Next Week at Artpark

Get tickets at the Artpark Box Office (Tuesday through Friday from 10AM to 4PM and Saturday from 10AM to 2PM) and on ticketmaster.com.