

Artpark 2022 (cont.)

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√ A peace garden was dedicated in 2020, and will serve as the site of this Saturday's "Spring Awakenings" celebration.

• **Family and children:** The Fairy House Festival has grown, while "FREE Family Saturdays" and summer camps have been bolstered.

• **Nature:** Artpark teamed with musical ensemble Alarm Will Sound on the Western New York premiere of "Ten Thousand Birds" by John Luther Adams in 2020.

√ Last summer, "Sonic Trails" debuted and offered a "hyperlocal and equally global perspective." Working with Sozo Creative and "some of the most influential BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) voices in music – The Holladay Brothers, Kronos Quartet, Rhiannon Giddens and Yo-Yo Ma, Indigenous artists curated by Michele-Elise Burnett, and DJ Spooky," Artpark was able to "cultivate aural experiences exploring" the state park's "unique geological and historic" attributes.

√ In September, "Sound Moves Me" debuted, inviting participants to "listen to the sounds of nature while exploring mindful listening, improvisation and guided performing and visual arts."

So, the "Why?" is simple. It is as Clark prophesied in 2016: "I want us to be this community that dares; that thinks; that experiments; and just have that platform for progress. The role of the arts is to inspire; to push some buttons; but, ultimately, when you come here and you experience



They say the more things change, the more they stay the same. So, yeah, Artpark looks a little different these days. But rest assured, patrons will feel right at home when they enter the Artpark Amphitheater and Mainstage Theater to partake of a jam-packed 2022 schedule.

that 'A-ha' moment ... that leads to maybe just a new realization that it's good to be here."

Now with regard to concerts, Artpark & Company simply has outgrown its tried and true "Tuesdays in the Park" presentation.

You see, while "TIP" brought Artpark & Company back from the brink of obscurity nearly two decades ago, its success also brought about increased competition for bands – and audiences. Every community added live music, and major concert promoters did their best to outbid Artpark for headline acts.

Add to that a two-year pandemic that derailed and rearranged touring, and it's no longer practical for the Lewiston venue to solely book live shows midweek.

This summer, concerts will take place throughout the week – and many weeks will feature multiple concerts – and multiple genres.

Artpark has evolved beyond classic and southern rock.

On Wednesday, Clark and Vice President of Concerts & Marketing Dave Wedekindt summed it up accordingly: "We're looking forward to these artists coming to Artpark for the first time, and especially welcoming many concertgoers back to our venues to open another season of programming. We anticipated this summer would be busy, given the sheer number of artists returning to the road to earn money again and get back in front of their fans, but this season really has exceeded our expectations.

"Beyond the large number of pop and rock concerts, we're truly activating Artpark in every sense of the word with an expanded 'New Music in the Park' series, multiple festivals, dance, Cirque nouveau, street theater, artist residencies, Indigenous programs, and so much more.

"It's a bold mix of programming, and we're definitely excited for the community to experience. It shows the momentum Artpark built through the pandemic when, in the absence of huge crowd events, we could really refocus on what is so special about this place, and the many ways people can enjoy the grounds and venues. Thankfully, with the support of the community, our funders, board of directors, dedicated and creative staff, and more, we are opening this season in a place of strength."

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