

Artpark & Company elects officers, reports on season at annual meeting

Earth, Wind & Fire to perform at Artpark on July 31, 2022

Artpark & Company's board of directors announced the election of new officers and directors at the organization's annual meeting held at Park Country Club on Oct. 13. Re-elected officers include: Joanne Bauer of Employer Services Corp. as chairman, Christopher Leardini as vice chairman, Vincent Agnello of Niagara University as secretary, and Stephen Turner of the Bonadio Group as treasurer.

The board reaffirmed Omar Khan as a new member. He had joined mid-year. Khan is the head of the School of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University and previously chair of University at Buffalo department of architecture.

Re-elected directors include Dena Armstrong, John Camp, Joseph Certo, Christopher Leardini, Michael J. Dowd and Skip Mazenauer.

Elected to the advisory council for a one-year term was Town of Lewiston Supervisor Steve Broderick, Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch New York State Sen. Robert Ortt, Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Rebecca Wydysh, Alison Lytle, Thomas Brydges, Daniel Cantara III, Sophia Smith, Thomas Fatta, Brian Geary, Lorie L. Washuta, Pamela Jacobs-Vogt, Seymour Knox IV and former Village of Lewiston mayors Terry Collesano and Richard Soluri.

President Sonia Clark and the



Cirque Barcode & Acting for Climate Montreal perform at Artpark on Aug. 21, with "Murmuration" in the background. (Photo by Jordan Oscar/courtesy of Artpark & Company)

leadership team also presented a recap of the summer season.

A press release noted, "While the region still dealt with the impact of COVID-19 in the spring and summer, Artpark was able to fully activate its outdoor venues even under regularly changing rules and restrictions for safe public gatherings. Programming included the return of 18 rock and pop concerts in the reduced-capacity amphitheater; Strawberry Moon Festival; a new free mobile app experience titled 'Sonic Trails'; the 'New Music in the Park' series with performances by Alarm Will Sound, JP Jofre, Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, Buffalo Jazz Composers Workshop, among others;

plus performances by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Jon Lehrer Dance Company, Cirque Barcode and Acting for Climate Montreal; Artpark Fairy House Festival; a new partnership with Torn Space Theater; new art installations - 'Murmuration' and 'Unity in Diversity'; Free Family Saturdays; theater and visual arts camps; an outdoor film series and more.

Attendance at 69 events increased by more than 480% from the 2020 season. Artpark also employed 383 artists and cultural sector professionals for a total of 29,927 hours. A dedicated base of 70 volunteers also gave 2,741 hours of their time. Economic im-

pact for the season is estimated at \$5,541,956.

The Western New York community was also generous in helping the nonprofit Artpark & Company build back from the devastation of the pandemic. There were 500 new donors, board giving increased by 22%, and 15 new program grants were received.

Artpark & Company's season was also supported by M&T Bank, Cullen Foundation, Wright Beverage Distributing, New York State Council on the Arts, John R. Oishei Foundation, KeyBank in partnership with First Niagara Foundation, the Charles D. and Mary A. Bauer Foundation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation - plus many corporate, foundation and individual donors.

EWFF Returns

The legendary music group Earth, Wind & Fire will perform a rescheduled show on the Artpark Amphitheater stage on Sunday, July 31, 2022 (8 p.m.) Tickets purchased for the originally planned 2020 and 2021 shows will be honored. Remaining tickets are on sale now.

Earth, Wind & Fire are a musical institution. 2022 will mark their 52nd anniversary in entertainment - one that has taken them all around the globe playing sold-out concerts. In 2019, their contributions to arts and culture were acknowledged in Washington, D.C., with the prestigious Kennedy

Center Honors. The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery also awarded Earth, Wind & Fire with its Portrait of a Nation Prize.

The band has scored eight No. 1 hits, have sold over 100 million albums worldwide and released 23 albums. Eight of those albums went double-Platinum and hit the Top 10, making EWF one of the best-selling artists of all time. They've won nine Grammy Awards including one for Lifetime Achievement (2012). In 2000, Earth, Wind & Fire was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, cementing a lasting impact on popular music.

Front-of-stage (standing-room-only) and reserved seating (numbered chairs) tickets are \$77. General admission bowl (carry-in chairs permitted) is \$37, while general admission lawn (carry-in chairs permitted) is \$19. Ticket prices include a facility fee; additional fees apply for online orders. All prices increase by \$5 starting Monday, July 25, 2022. Purchase online at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). The Artpark box office is closed for in-person purchases.

Additional 2022 concerts at Artpark currently on sale include: Bon Iver (June 7); Patti LaBelle (June 21); Barenaked Ladies with Gin Blossoms and Toad the Wet Sprocket (July 5); and Tedeschi Trucks Band with Los Lobos and Gabe Dixon (July 12). Visit [artpark.net](https://www.artpark.net) for more information.



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