

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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## Artpark & Company awarded for interactive wayfinding system



Tuesday morning, at the "Murmuration" art installation, New York nonprofit organization Parks & Trails New York presented a "big check" to Artpark & Company. This was done to acknowledge a \$50,000 award to create a comprehensive wayfinding system and incorporate public Wi-Fi along Artpark's pathways. The goal is to provide data access to a diverse demographic of visitors, and to serve as a functional necessity for an interactive signage system and data collection.

The funds are on behalf of the Park and Trail Partnership Grant program coordinated by Parks & Trails New York in partnership with the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

At the Lewiston site, Artpark & Company leadership was joined by state officials and Parks & Trails representation.

Parks & Trails New York is a leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space. [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org).

Artpark is online at [www.artpark.net](http://www.artpark.net). (Photos by Mark Williams Jr.)



## Rob Ortt recognizes Painters Plus



Sen. Rob Ortt recognizes Painters Plus Home Decorating as Senate District 62 "Small Business of the Month" for October. He is shown with owner Jesse Gooch.

On Tuesday, New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt recognized Painter Plus Home Decorating as the "Small Business of the Month" for October.

Founded by Niagara County Legislator Jesse Gooch in 2001, Painters Plus started with one brush, one ladder, and a 1979 Ford pickup truck. Over the past two decades, hundreds of employees and a fleet of service vans have helped turn Painters Plus into a successful Niagara County business.

Since 2010, Painters Plus "Project H.O.P.E." (Helping Others Paint Exteriors) has led to approximately \$95,000 in free home exterior decorating for disabled vets, cancer patients, and individuals in need. Painters Plus is also responsible for starting "Thursdays on The Water," a free summer concert series at Gratwick Park that has raised over \$12,000 for the Veterans One-Stop over the past two seasons. The business also has partnered with Meals on Wheels.

Each October, Painters Plus holds its annual painting party, where local children can stop by Painters Plus HQ, receive free pumpkin, cider, and doughnuts, and show off their costumes, while getting to paint their own pumpkins.

"Whether it's raising money for our local veterans, providing safe and fun family entertainment for the residents of North Tonawanda, or donating much-needed home services to those in need, Painters Plus continues to place our community first," Ortt said. "We are fortunate to have such a great community partner in Painters Plus and are thankful for the wonderful programs and events they continue to put on each year."

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