

'Thursdays on the Water' raises \$7,000 for Veteran's One Stop

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

The 2021 "Thursdays on the Water Concert Series" officially wrapped up a historic season at the end of August and, like any great show, it saved perhaps its best part for last.

Series founder Jesse Gooch said the series, now in its fourth year (having canceled its 2020 season) became "the hottest event of the summer in WNY" this year as it shattered attendance estimates with thousands of attendees over its eight-week run.

While the concert itself is free to attend, donations were accepted in the parking lot to support the Veterans One Stop Center of WNY, which offers supportive services designed to meet the needs of veterans and their families through on-

site providers, including education, legal and employment services, benefits and financial counseling, readjustment counseling, and housing and emergency services.

"We started partnering with the Veterans One Stop Center in 2019 and, so far, we've raised over \$13,000 for them in total," Gooch said. "We just wanted to help veterans as much as we can; people who've given so much for our country and community. So it means a lot that so many donated and that we can do whatever we can for (the vets)."

Gooch, a Niagara County legislator, thanked the event sponsors and volunteers and said the series will be back next year "even bigger and better."

'Sound Moves Me' opening at Artpark

New interactive programs at Artpark on Saturday afternoons from Sept. 25-Oct. 23 led by 'Artpark Bridges' program teaching artist Cynthia Cadwell Pegado

Artpark & Company, last Thursday, announced a new series of interactive outdoor arts workshops titled "Sound Moves Me" set along the Niagara River Gorge in the Artpark Percussion Garden area (lower park, South Fourth Street entrance). The series, offered free of charge and open to people of all ages and physical abilities, is set for 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoons from Sept. 25 through Oct. 23.

Described as "playful, contemplative and exhilarating," "Sound Moves Me" invites participants to listen to the sounds of nature while exploring mindful listening, improvisation and guided performing and visual arts activities connected with "Murmuration," one of Artpark's newest art installations. Each gathering features skill-development, exploration, performance of improvisational scores and reflection.

"Deep Listening" principles and scores developed by composer Pauline Oliveros form an integral foundation of "Sound Moves Me." Her mantra "Walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears" guides self-discovery and mutual respect.

"Sound Moves Me" is led by "Artpark Bridges" teaching artist and movement expert Cynthia Cadwell Pegado (pictured).



A press release said she "weaves her passion for immersive performance into the creative process of site-specific work for people of all abilities."

Pegado is a three-time New York State Council on the Arts Community Arts awardee for "Art Moves Me," her interpretive dance program based on visual art designed for the Burchfield Penney Art Center. She has choreographed performance works for students in Parkinson's-specific classes as well as public programs including Global Water Dances (a worldwide network of choreographers advocating for water quality).

At Artpark, she has conceived and led a number of inclusive visual and performing arts activi-

ties as an "Artpark Bridges" program teaching artist. She is also a three-time NYSCA DEC grant recipient as an Individual Artist for "Sound Dance" / "Sound Moves Me" in partnership with Artpark.

"Sound Moves Me" is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Services Inc. Also made possible in part by "Artpark Works" supported by the John R. Oishei Foundation and KeyBank in partnership with First Niagara Foundation.

Visit artpark.net for more information.

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