

2025



# Artpark

*Community Impact Report*

[artpark.net](http://artpark.net)

# Season Highlights



## Performing Arts - Opera

Artpark's opera *Der fliegende Holländer* (The Flying Dutchman) by Richard Wagner featured Metropolitan Opera star Michael Chioldi, along with international opera stars Marjorie Owens, Daniel Sumegi, and Robert Stahley. A true regional collaboration, this production featured the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus.

## Cirque

Presenting the first ever Artpark Cirque Festival, we inspired and entertained hundreds and featured over 30 performers across a wide range of disciplines. From aerial acrobatics to juggling, trampolines to trapeze, hula, fire dancing, and of course, a circus tent, the festival was presented in Artpark's lower park.



## Family Programs

Once a year, fairies take over the entirety of Artpark as the annual Fairy House Festival brings whimsy and a bit of magic to hundreds of children and families. And our newest program, Wonder Wednesdays, welcomed dozens of parents and children, gathering weekly each Wednesday in the summer for youth focused enrichment and fun.



## Bridges/Memory Cafe

Expanding our community outreach, Artpark launched Sensing Here & Now, our free to attend, ongoing program for care partners & people living with neurological changes in memory & thinking. Each session dozens of participants enjoy music and activities to spark friendly social interaction and create a community of connection.



*Supported by Exhale Memory Collective*



## Mainstage & Amphitheater

This season brought classic acts like Chicago, George Thorogood & the Destroyers, and UB40 along with more modern performers like Lucy Dacus, Vance Joy, and Rainbow Kitten Surprise, representing Country, Rock, Hip Hop, Alternative, Blues, New Orleans Jazz, and more.

## Field Trips

Over 2,500 students visited Artpark this season representing over 30 schools from Erie and Niagara counties. Each group participated in art making, nature walks, & indigenous experiences that reflect the history of the Niagara region and Artpark.



## Visual Art

Eat Off Art, an artist collective of Edreys and Alexa Wajed, were commissioned to design and install Artpark's latest public mural "Guiding Light".



# From the President



Now that I have completed my first year leading this organization, I am not only thankful for the opportunity, but also grateful for our impactful and diverse 2025 season and the number of events, activities, & experiences we offered this past summer.

By the numbers we offered:

- 23 concerts in the Amphitheater and Mainstage Theater featuring 57 different groups
- “The Flying Dutchman” featuring 150 performers including internationally touring opera artists and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus
- 24 hours of visual arts workshops by our teaching artists in Erie and

Niagara County schools

- Field trips for 32 groups of K-12 students, with over 2,500 students served
- Our new “Wonder Wednesdays” series for over 60 families with young children
- 2 weeks of Artcamps for 42 students
- 42 adult art-making events experienced by 438 people
- Artpark Bridges provided 89 workshops for 141 hours of programming & served over 1,100 people
- 4 Festivals - Fairy House Festival, Strawberry Moon Festival, Cirque Festival, and Better Off Read Festival were enjoyed by 4,000+ visitors
- Indigenous programming celebrated history, community, & understanding for over 1,500 visitors
- Our first full year of the Sensing Here & Now Memory Cafe
- Installation of “Guiding Light,” a new mural by Eat Off Art (artists: Edreys & Alexa Wajed)
- 80 volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours of their time for our events
- And we released the “Secret Symphony of Plants” album!

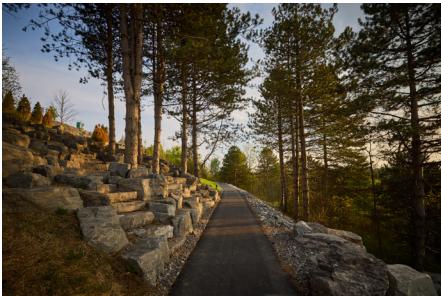
All of this would not be possible without the donors, funders, and sponsors that support the not-for-profit work of Artpark & Company. My sincerest gratitude as well to our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, elected officials, New York State Parks, ticket buyers, and other community stakeholders who are the magic makers for Artpark. Artpark is a true regional asset as well, with a more than \$13 million annual economic impact.

Please remember that Artpark remains open daily from dawn until dusk. Come and enjoy the trails and art installations, and don't miss the scramble, switchback and scenic overlook that opened in the upper park earlier this year.

Warm regards,

*Dave Wedekindt*

Dave Wedekindt  
President



# Artpark *by the numbers*

Over 75,000 audience and visitors served

**15** concerts featuring **35** bands on the Amphitheater stage

**13 events featuring concerts, opera, comedy, fashion and film on the Mainstage**

# Community Impact

## \$13M Economic benefit to the community\*

**235 seasonal and full-time employees**

Over 3,000 volunteer hours contributed

*\*Americans for the Arts*

# Mission

Artpark & Company fosters a transformative world of artistic engagement that explores the human experience, cultivates creativity, and encourages curiosity. Our work is informed by a long tradition of discovery, an expectation of artistic excellence, and an awareness of the inspiration of singular natural splendor.