



Erie County Youth Bureau Chronicle

Fall & Winter 2020

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Erie County Youth Board:

- Liza Acanfora
 - *Iman Abuhamra
 - Jasmine Ansah
 - Kelli Blakeley
 - *Angelina Bolognese
 - Nichelle Brown
 - Alan Carter-Fambo
 - David Caywood
 - Jeffrey Davis
 - Paul Denning
 - *Benjamin Fox
 - Veronica Golden
 - Melissa Jones
 - Jack Kavanaugh
 - Charity Lulas
 - Susan Lumadue
 - Aneesa Masaed
 - *Dialo Rivera-Stevens
 - Brian Rochford
 - Kenny Simmons
 - Sean Tulumello
- *youth member

Youth Board Welcomes Two Newest Members

We are thrilled to announce that we have two additional Youth Board members! Themselves both youth, this brings us to a full board of 21 members for the first time in memory. Angelina Bolognese is a sophomore at Nardin High School. She attended the Youth Leadership Forum in Albany back in February 2020 with John and Talisa. Benjamin Fox is a senior at Lancaster High School and also represents the Lancaster Youth Board.

Both Angelina and Benjamin came to us through the NYS Youth Council. Each had applied and not been chosen to represent Erie County. However, both had expressed an interest in representing Erie County at the local level via our Youth Board. Both youth will also sit on the Youth Council Committee, one of several that currently exist. Despite the challenges of the realities of COVID, Both Angel and Ben will be on-boarded in a thoughtful and strategic way.

Please help us in welcoming both Benjamin and Angelina to our strong group of committed volunteers who together comprise the Erie County Youth Board! We hope that each of you will have an opportunity to meet both of these fantastic young persons in the near future.



Happy Holidays!

Youth Board, Agency Partners Attend Racial Equity Impact Analysis Training

On November 10th, the Erie County Youth Board and representatives from several ECYB partner agencies participated in a Racial Equity Impact Analysis Training. The training was convened by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo (CFGB). Many organizations both public and private have gone through this training, including Erie County Youth Services in 2019. In addition to the Board members, the following organizations were in attendance: Peace of the City, The Belle Center, the Town of Amherst, and West Side Community Services. By all accounts, the experience was a positive one and there were many lessons learned.



cording to the CFGB website: “Western New York’s resurgence is a source of pride and promise. But a truly strong region requires that the benefits of this resurgence are enjoyed across the entire population. A growing number of communities are beginning to employ a Racial Equity Impact Analysis in the work of the private sector, government units, and nonprofits to improve the likelihood of a shared prosperity.

The purpose of this training is to introduce you to a user-friendly tool called the Racial Equity Impact Analysis, which has the potential to increase your organization’s mission performance by furthering success across all racial/ethnic groups. The tool makes the concept of racial equity actionable and measurable.

Beyond providing the opportunity to ‘test-drive’ the tool on a concrete issue, the session offers grounding in a shared language that reduces misunderstanding around issues of race as well as background about how our region’s current racial inequities resulted from policy and practice choices that we have the power to change. The session is highly interactive, using small group discussion, videos, and application exercises to engage participants’ knowledge and insights. The trainers draw upon their several decades of experience working with organizations to advance racial equity to offer guidance about what works and answer questions related to your specific responsibilities and concerns.”

We are grateful to the presenters, to the CFGB, to the Board, and to all of our partner agency reps who attended. We hope that the lessons learned during this training, which will be lifted up by designated “coaches” from the group over the coming weeks and months, will be but a small part of a much larger racial awakening and a community-wide call to racial justice.

Ms. Tina Washington-Abubeker Takes the Helm at African American Cultural Center

The African American Cultural Center, as well as the youth development landscape in Buffalo, NY, suffered a terrible loss earlier this year when its Executive Director Agnes M. Bain passed away. Many paragraphs would not do justice to her legacy. I recently met up with Ms. Tina Washington-Abubeker, who succeeds Ms. Bain. I wanted to learn more about her and about the organization that she now manages and oversees on a daily basis.

ACC Dance and Drum Component is comprised of a Performance Company which is the first and oldest of its kind in the city of Buffalo, New York. The movement, sound and visual of the repertory company connects directly to the West African traditions of the Diaspora that it celebrates. Its mission is rooted in providing authentic cultural exchange as means of educational enlightenment.

The African American Cultural Center Dance and Drum Performance Company which is currently under the direction of Lynette L. Simmons was developed under the instruction of West African cultural artists and influence of African American pioneers in the dance genre. The Company repertoire has been compiled with attention to the stylistic influences of American choreographers Katherine Dunham, Pearl Primus, Pearl Reynolds, Rhema Sterling, Rod Rodgers among others including Buffalo's own African dancer Ronnie Latham who studied in Senegal and whom the dance chamber is named.

On October 31, 2020, the AACC Dance and Drum Performance Company held its annual October Harvestfest which keeps the tradition of African Harvest celebration, a time for giving thanks for the blessings of abundance, well-being, and community/family. This event was also planned as an alternative to traditional door to door Halloween "trick-or-treating and it was organized based on the observation and adherence to the CDC mandated regulations and procedures for preventing the spread of the Corona Virus.

First, the event organizers choose to have an outdoor venue which would make it easy for attendees to either drive up or walk through. The Johnnie B. Wiley site was perfect for this and the weather cooperated with a warm sunny day. The organizers also opted to not have food vendors and limited the number of vendor booths overall to prevent wait lines.

The event hours were extended to spread attendance out over the course of the days, so that families could walk through to prevent wait time and clustering. Community participants were required to wear masks and were also required to social distance (by residential family) on markers 6 feet apart even when the audience participated in dancing.



Three AACC Dance groups performed from ages 2 to adults. The show featured the original poetry of an AACC youth actress Nia Eniaye, singing by "Surrealist Music Group"- James Newmusiq, Brit, and Jus Aharon, and a juggling show by AACC African Drummer Eric Ansuade. Every child received a bag of not just candy, but also a healthy snack, educational, art supplies, and books. Finally, there was a booth with African American trivia questions and prizes awarded to winners. Up to 300 people attended (200 were children).



Erie County Youth Services

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[www2.erie.gov/
socialservices](http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices) or Google
"Erie County Youth Bureau"

ECYB Mission: *"To serve youth and families through support of positive youth development programs and juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs that strengthen families and communities."*

UPCOMING DEADLINES/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- **PYD Mental Health Webinar** (see attached flyer w/ description): Thursday, Dec. 10th, 11:00am-12:00pm
| Register here: https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C_0PZ5tpSUCJqk7z0j_7Rg
- **2021 Youth Development Program (YDP) allocations released:** On or about Friday, Dec. 11th
- **[Save the Date] After School Network of WNY Professional Development & Capacity Building**
Virtual Coffee Chat: Wednesday, Jan. 6th | Flyer and registration link to follow
- **NYS Network for Youth Success 2021 Budget Priorities Survey:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVn50HP7NGRwEmtewZW2WgtVI7_bUzO3UI-YYpOxiUBeLGRA/viewform?fbzx=3323408355147917849

We welcome submissions of community events/recaps at any time, so please consider sending us notices of upcoming events and/or photos/videos that you believe might be of interest to your colleagues. Thank you!



**YOUTH KONNECT
716**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Free and fully virtual!

THE PURPOSE OF YK716 IS TO PROVIDE ALL YOUTH AGES 14-18 WITH THE CHANCE TO ENGAGE IN SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CHANGE WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE ACADEMY STARTS WITH AN EXCITING 4-WORKSHOP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM THAT BUILDS LEADERSHIP SKILLS. GRADUATES ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY THEIR SKILLS AND CONTINUE THEIR LEADERSHIP EDUCATION!



LEAN MORE & REGISTER AT
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YK716](https://tinyurl.com/YK716)



The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is proud to introduce – Generator Z – a new grantmaking initiative for teens to reimagine the future of afterschool. The initiative, powered by Lakeshore Connections and supported by the Foundation, centers teen voices as the drivers of innovation.

<https://www.generator-z.org/>

We're inviting teens, ages 13-18, from Southeast Michigan and Western New York to become "Generators" and share their vision for the direction of afterschool.

1,000 selected teens will be paid \$1,000 each for their participation. In early 2021, Generator Z will invite afterschool providers to apply for grants based on teen insight. In the next year, \$1 million in stipends will be paid to teens and \$3 million in grants to organizations.



How is COVID-19 Impacting the Emotional Well-being of Adolescents?

Thursday, December 10, 2020

11:00AM – 12:00PM

Presenter: Jutta Dotterweich, ACT for Youth, Cornell University

About the webinar: We all experience the impact of living during COVID-19, a pandemic that fosters social isolation, restricts physical and emotional contact, and moves social interaction online. While they are designed to keep us physically safe, the conditions we are living under affect our emotional and social health and well-being. What is the impact on young people, who are still learning how to handle stress and develop important social and emotional skills? What are the long-term consequences of growing up during a pandemic? We'll take a look what experts and researchers tell us. And we'll explore promising strategies to support young people, online and on-site, in their efforts to navigate this difficult social environment.

As before, we would like to invite participants of the Positive Youth Development 101 trainings and members of youth worker networks such as 4-H, youth bureaus, and afterschool coalitions to join us.

Registration link: https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C_0PZ5tpSUCJqk7z0j_7Rg

This is a free web session. Please share the announcement with other youth work professionals.

Find resources for youth work professionals on the ACT for Youth website:

http://www.actforyouth.net/youth_development/professionals/

JOB TITLE: YOUTH SERVICE COORDINATOR

Department: Town of West Seneca, Recreation Department

Reporting Manager: Lauren Masset, Recreation Supervisor

Position Status: Part-Time

Revised: November 2, 2020

Position Summary: The Youth Service Coordinator assists the Recreation Supervisor in planning, coordinating and executing recreation programs and events. The Youth Service Coordinator is required to oversee some programs. In addition, the Youth Service Coordinator oversees the coordination of activities for the Youth Service community program, including community advocacy, program monitoring, evaluation and development, and promotes a culture of safety, integrity and respect. Under the direction of the Recreation Supervisor, the Youth Service Coordinator will have supervisory responsibility over department employees and program participants.

In the performance of respective tasks and duties, all employees are expected to conform to the following:

- Perform quality work within deadlines with or without direct supervision.
 - Interact professionally with other employees, members of the community, volunteers and visitors.
 - Work effectively as a team contributor on all assignments.
 - Work independently while understanding the necessity for communicating and coordinating work efforts with other employees and organizations.
-

Position Accountabilities:

- Collaborate with youth organizations, local schools and churches to develop programs that meet the needs of the program participants, such as but not limited the Youth Engaged in Services and other Recreation programs.
- Collaborate with local agencies and schools to foster positive and productive service relationships for youth within the community
- Attend meetings as requested with the Erie County Youth Bureau, representing the interests of the Town of West Seneca Youth and Recreation Department, complete funding requests, and maintain youth dashboards for the Youth Engaged in Services program.
- Identify youth programming needs through data collection and sharing of information. Proposing improvements in programming and affecting changes in policies and procedures that will address community concerns and in compliance with the Erie County Youth Bureau, Town of West Seneca and Erie County Department of Health.
- Assist in oversight of youth & recreation programming and staff allocated to those programs, such as the Youth Gym program.
- Assist with facility scheduling and management.
- Assist with administrative tasks and duties related to the activities, programs and services provided by the Recreation Department, including but not limited to, answering the telephone and emails, processing payments for programs, processing registration forms, creating memos and spreadsheets.
- Acting Recreation Supervisor as necessary, such as in the event of a medical leave absence.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Must be over the age of 18.
- Must have a High School Diploma.
- Preference will be given to applicants studying or holding a Bachelor of Science degree, with concentration in Education and/or Physical Education preferred.
- Must have all required ECDOH/NYSDOH certification for children's camps within 30 days of hire.
- On call availability some weekdays, most evenings and weekends.

Position Requirements and Working Conditions:

Physical Activities (Check all that apply)	Frequency (N)Never, (O)Occasionally or (C)Constantly
Ascending or descending stairs or ramps.	O
Moving self in different positions to accomplish tasks in various environments.	C
Remaining in a stationary position, often standing or sitting for prolonged periods.	C
Moving about to accomplish tasks.	C
Adjusting or moving objects up to 10 pounds in all directions.	C
Communicating with others to exchange information.	C
Repeating motions that may include the wrists, hands and/or fingers.	C
Operating motor vehicles or heavy equipment.	O
Assess risk, detect risk factors for site safety purposes through being aware of surrounding environment, individuals, noises, observations, etc.	C

Environmental Conditions (Check all that apply)	Frequency (N)Never, (O)Occasionally or (C)Constantly
Low temperatures.	C
High temperatures.	C
Outdoor elements such as precipitation and wind.	C
Noisy environments.	C
Hazardous conditions.	N
Small and/or enclosed spaces.	O

Physical Demands (Check all that apply)	Frequency (N)Never, (O)Occasionally or (C)Constantly
Light work that includes moving objects up to 20 pounds.	C
Medium work that includes moving objects up to 50 pounds.	C
Heavy work that includes moving objects up to 100 pounds or more.	C