

A Project To Create Upper West Arts Center

Background

Since its founding in 1980, Alleyway Theatre Inc. has evolved into a family of distinctive theatre companies including Alleyway Theatre (in Buffalo's Theatre District), Theatre Plus (dedicated to women's theatre), and KidShowCo (an educationally oriented children's theatre company.) In the 1990's the non-profit corporation identified the need to help build a healthy future by developing outstanding facilities. Thus, the corporation's long term strategic plan focused on renovating Alleyway Theatre's home facility in Buffalo's Theatre District and on creating an arts center to serve all of the arts community.



Satisfying A Demonstrated Need

Western New York is home to a remarkable number and variety of cultural organizations. Indeed, on this basis it outshines communities many times its size throughout the country. Yet, we have long lacked a facility which offers cultural organizations both high quality performing and exhibit space as well as affordability. The critical need for such space has been identified by numerous theatre, opera, dance, music, literary and visual arts organizations and it has been confirmed by independent studies conducted for the Arts Council In Buffalo and Erie County. Alleyway Theatre Inc. will help satisfy this need with the development of Upper West Arts Center.

A Capital Project To Support Programming And Community Service

One of Buffalo's most beautiful church buildings overlooks Ferry Circle on Fredrick Law Olmsted's Richmond Avenue. Formerly Richmond Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, the 100 year old 36,000 square feet structure is built of Medina sandstone, and features an impressive bell tower, stained glass windows and grand center dome. The floor plan offers an ideal environment for use as an arts center. When renovations are complete, Upper West Arts Center will feature a 99 seat drama theatre, 600 seat concert hall, meeting rooms, rehearsal halls, dressing rooms, offices, and exhibit gallery, and be able to host as many as four events simultaneously. Further, the elegant, and acoustically perfect, main hall is equipped with a 2,300 pipe grand pipe organ; one of the area's finest. The total budget for this adaptive reuse project is \$2.4 million.

Upper West Arts Center will serve the entire region...

- promoting cultural tourism and economic development.
- preserving and restoring an important architectural treasure.
- supporting programming in all aspects of the visual and performing arts.
- providing educational programming for children and adults.
- providing facilities for community meetings and events.
- attracting over 50,000 people each year!

Please address letters of support or inquiry to:

Neal Radice, Executive Director

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and for much more information visit <http://alleyway.com>