



**For Immediate Release**

**For More Information:**

Megan Charland  
communications@rochesterarts.org  
585-244-1730

## **\$50,000 Support For Youth Photographers**

### **Genesee Center receives grant from ECMC Foundation**

**(ROCHESTER, NY – April 12, 2016)** Genesee Center for the Arts & Education (GCAE) has received a \$50,000 GO! Program grant from the ECMC Foundation to support the Center's Studio 678 youth photography program.

"This grant is a godsend! It will provide much needed support for our Studio 678 students in the 2016-2017 school year. It will also help us to develop a mentoring/training program for students now in high school in the spring/summer that would provide trained volunteers/role models for the following year's program for middle school students. We have wanted to do this for years and this is our opportunity to make our dream happen and further enhance our programming for inner city students." — Sharon Turner, Photography Director

Funding from this grant will support Studio 678 in the following ways:

- Support the next cohort of students in the program for the 2016/2017 academic year.
- Increase transportation assistance and provide additional teacher training to support students with learning challenges. Student participants come to the Center on a first-come, first-served basis with 30% having a variety of physical, emotional or medical issues.
- Engage an additional small group of students for a shorter spring or summer program. This group could include previous program participants who are now high school students that would benefit from continued connection and could serve as interns/volunteers and role models with the middle school program the following year.

“It gives me joy to know that this grant will help so many young people experience the gift of art in their lives. Thanks are given to the ECMC Foundation, the staff and teachers that make our youth photography program happen and to the many volunteers who give their time and talent. All who are involved with these students contribute to their success and to making our community a more positive and creative place!” — Janice Gouldthorpe, Executive Director

### **About Studio 678**

Studio 678 is now entering its 18th consecutive year as a 24-session after-school photography program for 30 students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades at Wilson Foundation Academy. The club is free to the students and receives no funding from the Rochester City School District. Funders include individuals, businesses, foundations, and professional associations.

The six goals of photo club are to:

- Empower youth to express their vision and voice through photography and writing.
- Enable youth to build life skills such as self-confidence, perseverance, and problem-solving.
- Encourage youth to connect with the community via field trips to historical, cultural, college, urban/rural and other settings.
- Enhance knowledge of core school subjects such as ratios when mixing chemistry or use of fractions when cutting mats.
- Energize youth to work together in teams.
- Establish mentoring relationships with youth, over a 1 to 3 year period.

Students learn how to use a professional 35mm film camera, go on field trips in the community to take pictures, make their own black & white prints in the darkroom, write poems or stories to accompany their photographs and create their own pages for the annual club book using Photoshop and InDesign. Students also cut their own mats and frame a selection of their photographs for exhibition and second and third year students complete special projects.

At the conclusion of the year, all of the club members' photographs and writing are displayed at The Link Gallery in City Hall with an opening reception and awards ceremony in City Council Chambers. A student created movie featuring their photographs/spoken word set to music is shown, the finished book is

released and club members are presented with certificates of achievement from community leaders. Our second and third year 8th grade graduates receive their own cameras. Over 200 parents, teachers, friends, funders, and community representatives are in attendance each year.

### **About the Genesee Center**

Genesee Center for the Arts & Education is a community-based not-for-profit that educates, encourages and inspires all people to create and enjoy the visual arts. As a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, the organization is committed to making high-quality arts education available to all.

Genesee Center for the Arts & Education has been operating since 1970. Genesee Center is a darkroom and photography facility, a pottery workshop, and a printing and book arts center. Support of the Genesee Center benefits youth outreach programs and programs for the community. All of the money raised stays in Rochester and directly benefits members of the Rochester community. The Center uses its resources to provide youth programs in schools, offers over 140 classes to the general public, and rents space to artists and others interested in the visual arts. Internships, facilities for advanced area arts students and resource facilities for anyone interested in book arts, photography and pottery are also available. Three galleries in the building serve as exhibit space for local, regional and national artists.

For more information, contact the Genesee Center Administrative Office at 585-244-1730, or visit our website at [www.rochesterarts.org](http://www.rochesterarts.org).