



**For Immediate Release**

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## **\$12,500 Support For Youth Photographers**

### **Flower City Arts Center receives grant from Fay Slover Fund at the Boston Foundation**

**(ROCHESTER, NY – December 12, 2016)** The Flower City Arts Center, previously the Genesee Center for the Arts & Education, has received \$12,500 in support from the Fay Slover Fund at the Boston Foundation to support the public placement of art from the Center's Studio 678 youth photography program.

"This grant makes it possible for art to be placed in the community where art has not ordinarily been displayed. What makes this opportunity special is that the photographers are young people who live in the same neighborhoods where the photographs will be exhibited."— Sharon Turner, Photography Director

Funding from this grant will support the Rochester community in the following ways:

- Reimburses each student for works created, giving them encouragement through the appreciation of their artwork by others and generating connections for the community members who view their work.
- Covers permanent placement of 30 photographs in area human services agencies, public housing, municipal buildings, clinic and healthcare settings.
- Allows people to enjoy artfully engaging public spaces as they live their lives to the fullest.

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### **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 Flower City Arts Center**

The Flower City Arts Center 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.

Flower City Arts Center has been operating since 1970. The Center is a darkroom and photography facility, a pottery workshop, and a printing and book arts center. Support of the 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 Flower City Arts Center Administrative Office at 585-244-1730, or visit our website at [www.rochesterarts.org](http://www.rochesterarts.org).