



For Immediate Release: February 20, 2019

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BUFFALO, NY - Buffalo Arts Studio and Journey's End Refugee Services are excited to share a new partnership with "Looking and Learning"; this is a new collaborative program between the two organizations designed to encourage the development of English language skills through the active experience of looking at art and art-making in public spaces. "Art" will be discussed as an object or experience made by humans in order to construct meaning or to "make special" that object or experience. This definition will allow for the consideration of "art" outside the Western tradition.

Speaking about this new collaborative program, Buffalo Arts Studio's Executive Director Alma Carrillo said "I want the Journey's End staff and clients to know that they are welcome here, that they are part of our community. The tours have been wonderful so far; we have used the artwork to develop basic vocabulary as well as discuss complex ideas like symbol and metaphor. It's very exciting to see the students smile as they connect with the artwork and with each other. "

Journey's End Education Director Jacqueline Ashby said, "Our students come here from all over the world speaking a multitude of languages, but are finding common ground through the "Looking and Learning" program. Journey's End is excited to partner with Buffalo Arts Studio on this unique and innovative program that uses art as a medium to help refugees develop their English language skills, while experiencing the rich cultural offerings of our city."

Through this program Buffalo Arts Studio and Journey's End Refugee Services seek to not only deepen their formal ties through shared programming, but endeavor to build a coalition from within the Tri-Main Center through their respective communities. Buffalo Arts Studio seeks to impart the importance of art in everyday life and works to recognize the transformative power of the visual arts for all individuals. Journey's End provides refugees with the resources and support they need to become successful, active and contributing members of the Western New York Community.

On Saturday, March 30, 2019, Buffalo Arts Studio will be hosting **Plates and Pasta**; a fundraiser to benefit Buffalo Arts Studio. Tickets and information can be found at www.buffaloartsstudio.org.

On April 11-12, Journey's End will be hosting its first annual **WNY Refugee Film Festival!**

WNRYFF: "Our Humanity is Not a Debate" is an unforgettable cinematic experience to benefit the programs at Journey's End Refugee Services.