



## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Joy Testa Cinquino, Manager, Public Affairs  
716- 858-7182 [testaj@buffalolib.org](mailto:testaj@buffalolib.org)

### **PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS – THEN AND NOW**

#### ***Discussion Program “Arts for the People” at downtown Central Library***

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The **Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System** will host the first of the *PastForward Discussion Series*, three community discussions focusing on aspects of WNY history during the Great Depression of the 1930s and their applications to the challenges this region is facing today, on **Thursday, October 21 from 6 – 9 p.m.** at the **downtown Central Library**, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. The event is free and open to the public.

The PastForward Series is a program of the Library’s *Re-Collecting the Depression and New Deal as a Civic Resource in Hard Times* project, funded through grants from the **New York Council on the Humanities** and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**.

The program on Thursday, October 21, “Arts for the People,” focuses on public funding for the arts during the Great Depression, the rich cultural legacy spawned at that time – particularly the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Kleinhans Music Hall, both WPA (Works Progress Administration) projects – and the role of public funding for the arts in economic policy and practice in today’s no less challenging times. The evening will include overview displays of WNY’s Depression-era arts history; a call for identifying oral history interview subjects, artifacts and other resources from the Depression for future collecting; and some technology-based tools for further exploring WNY’s Depression era and arts legacy still surrounding us today. Panelists participating in the program include Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Artistic Director Joann Faletta; local historian and author Mark Goldman; UB Professor David Herzberg; John R. Oishei Foundation Vice President Paul Hogan, and moderator Mark Sommer, Buffalo News reporter.

Two additional discussions are planned in 2011; Organized Labor in February and Public Housing in May. For more information, visit [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org).

Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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