

SUSPENSION

The Western New York Book Arts Collaborative (WNYBAC),

is a 501 c 3 located at the corner of Washington and Mohawk Streets in Downtown Buffalo, steps from the Central Library with its collaborating partner Just Buffalo Literary Center.

This two story building (the Book Arts Center) has become the focal point and pivotal in encouraging neighborhood development, reducing blight and provides a home for the printing and literary movement sweeping Western New York. The Book Arts center is welcoming and accessible to all types of people and promotes a warm experience for all involved. This popularity is evident in the types of conferences, patrons and events that have been booked at the Book Arts Center.

Since its un-official opening in 2008, the Book Arts Center has become the host for several international events and educational conferences: Typecon; Bread & Puppet; Typecamp; Edible Book; Beyond In; the Infringement Festival; Bookfest and a future site for the upcoming National Trust Conference. Such noted international Artists: Catherine Parker; Richard Rockford; Adele Cohen; Olga Bajusova; Gerald Mead; Bonnie Gordon; Robert D. Schroeck; and Anthony Peter Gorny to mention a few have exhibited in the gallery.

The facility lends itself well to conferences under 400 attendees as an alternative site, with its beautifully renovated second floor overlooking the electric tower it is a favorite meeting space for other non-profits and also for evening events. The facility is very versatile with a working 1900's printshop in the basement for student instruction, a first floor open gallery approximately 2000 square feet with bookshop and library, and 900 square feet of classroom/event space on the third floor.

With almost 6000 square feet of space devoted to fulfilling its mission, it is one of the largest working classrooms in the United States. In 2010 the Book Arts Center saw over 14,000 visitors, coming from a variety of different economic backgrounds, nationalities, counties of origin and age.

In 2010 over 5000 Western New York School children came to the Book Arts Center for field trips, classes and events • 1000+ attended a Big Night • 800+ attended the "Beyond In" opening night • 500 people have attended classes • 2000 visitors have come for openings and special events with over 4000 people visiting and coming through the doors on a annual basis. These numbers do not reflect the teacher in-service, space rental numbers or the individual events that Just Buffalo has on a regular basis, which accounts for an additional 2700 visitors.

The Book Arts Center has become a downtown destination, open four days a week and most evenings for special events, its lights can be seen beaconing from up the street. Easily accessible by car, rail and bus it is equally accessible to all Western New York patrons and they are finding it. Buffalo had more printers per capita at the turn of the century, the Book Arts Center captures this energy, excitement and hope for a brighter future by teaching about our successful past and successful future. WNYBAC connects the past to the present, by teaching where computer terms come from, providing hands-on learning experiences that encourage communication, self-expression and higher self-esteem, in addition to meeting NYS education standards in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology and the Arts.

The Western New York Book Arts Collaborative exists to promote, encourage and develop the Printing and Book Arts through education and access for individual artists and underserved communities. Through active programs of all facets of the printed word and image -- printmaking, papermaking, illustration, design, writing, book binding -- the long history of multiple editions from stone carving to the internet can be explored and made accessible to the public. Through creativity and expression a greater sense of cultural understanding and sense of community may be developed.

Proposal

Mission/Activities/Organization:

The Western New York Book Arts Collaborative (WNYBAC) is a working print Museum, which exists to promote, encourage and develop Printing & Book related Arts, through education, and access for individual artists and underserved communities. WNYBAC provides active programs such as lectures, workshops and exhibitions, and all facets of the printed word and image - printmaking, papermaking, illustration, design, writing, binding - can be explored and made accessible to the public as viewer and participant. WNYBAC successfully meets the New York State standards in Social Studies, Math, Technology, Science, ELA and provides an alternative method of assessment for the Arts, by providing hand on learning opportunities with its classes, school field trips, school in services and by providing teacher instruction.

WNYBAC is a young organization, incorporated in September of 2006, WNYBAC found a home in 2008 and officially opened its doors May 21, 2009. Since opening over 17,500 visitors have visited the Museum, on a field trip, to take a class, received additional professional instruction, to shop at the specialized bookshop or to attend an artist opening or poetry reading. WNYBAC has already become a destination for local residents as well as International visitors on a daily basis.

WNYBAC's organizational structure is fluid, team-based and has begun to expand carefully as the organization is growing. The organization is governed by a volunteer board, diverse in background and professional expertise, but united in commitment to the mission. In addition to a dedicated staff of three, WNYBAC has a strong volunteer intern base of five and a docent staff of six. WNYBAC has also developed a strong collaboration with strategic partner: Just Buffalo Literary Center, collaborating on events, workshops, fundraisers, professional development and even grants. This strong collaboration has shown to be successful with the recent award of Fund for the Arts and a joint grant from the Cummings Foundation to both organizations. In 2009 a further affirmation of the strength of this partnership occurred with Just Buffalo moving their Artistic offices to the second floor of the Book Arts Building and committing to a long-term lease. The combination of both Just Buffalo Literary Center and the WNY Book Arts Collaborative under one roof has created the only Printing Center in the country with a true collaboration between the spoken, written and printed word in one location.

Project:

WNYBAC is at a critical juncture, it has raised the funds to purchase their facility, 468 Washington Street in Downtown Buffalo, NY and have completed 75% of all renovations that was required to open the doors, now we would like to finish the remaining 25% of the renovations and be accessible to all. These renovations include a handicapped lift to go to all 3 floors, an accessible bathroom on the first floor, a reconfigured vestibule on Washington street, a second floor fire escape, signage and lighting to help with visibility, and replacement of the windows to provide better natural light more efficiently. To complete this final phase would require a total of \$172,000.00.

WNYBAC has already made progress in reaching this goal, a total of \$45,000 has been committed to date - \$30,000 from the Cummings Foundation and private sources for the elevator, \$5,000 from Just Buffalo and \$10,000 from the WNYBAC's Board of Directors.

Completion of these final renovations will allow WNYBAC to expand its programming to all three floors, which include a fully functioning print shop classroom in the basement and a large classroom on the second floor able to accommodate up to 80 students. The Print shop contains 5 full sized presses, a Ludlow typesetter, an etching press, numerous platen presses as well as a silk screen press, this collection offers an opportunity for students to fully grasp the importance of the invention of the printing press and understand why it was the most important invention of modern man. Accessibility to these opportunities such as those provided by WNYBAC help create critical thinkers, provide alternative methods of communication and life long learners.

WNY Book Arts Collaborative Project Budget:

Item	Total \$\$	Still remaining to be raised	Other Funding Sources
Salaries and benefits	\$20,000		\$20,000 (FFA)
Consultation fees	\$5,000		\$5,000 (FFA)
Education/training	n/a		
Capital or construction costs (please specify)	\$172,000** (see down below)		\$45,000* (WNYBAC, JBLC, Cummings & private)
ADA Lift	\$65,000	\$30,000	*\$35,000
Windows	\$34,000	\$34,000	
ADA Vestibule – Washington st	\$10,000	\$10,000	
ADA Bathroom	\$10,000		\$10,000
Signage	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Lighting	\$7,000	\$7,000	
Fire Escape	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Repainting of Brickwork	\$18,000	Proposal out currently	
Outreach costs	\$10,000		\$10,000
Total	\$212,000	\$114,000	\$80,000

WNY Book Arts Collaborative Financial Narrative:

WNYBAC is a new organization and will file its first 990 for the calendar year 2009 in the next two weeks. WNYBAC only e-filed in 2006, 2007 and 2008 with the help of the firm Ferraro and Hauser, because its revenues were under \$25,000.00. WNYBAC saw revenues of only \$2400.00 in 2006, \$8100.00 in 2007 and \$16,000.00 in 2008. 2009 saw a marked increase in revenues growing to \$89,000 with the majority of the revenue being generated in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters. A positive cash balance of \$21,000.00 was recorded on December 31, 2009.

WNYBAC does not rely on any County, State or Federal funding to provide its programming.

WNYBAC received the following unrestricted grants in 2009, \$5000.00 from the Rupp Foundation, \$1000.00 from the Jewish Philanthropic Foundation. The following to be received in 2010, a \$2500.00 NYSCA DEC Grant for Demo Days and a Fund for the Arts Implementation Grant, amount to be determined.

WNYBAC receives its revenue dollars from many sources, ranked in order of importance.

1. Membership
2. Workshop fees
3. Online sales
4. Field trip revenue
5. Commission of Sales from the Gallery
6. Bookstore sales
7. Donations
8. Grants

BuffaloNews.com



Richard Kegler of the Western New York Book Arts Center hand-sews the binding of the limited-edition book the center is producing for artist Richard Tuttle.

Sharon Cantillon / Buffalo News

One of a kind poet

By Colin Dabkowski

Published: September 2, 2011, 2:03 PM

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Updated: September 3, 2011, 1:31 PM

In summer 1974, an up-and-coming artist named Richard Tuttle came to Lewiston to install a sculpture for the inaugural season of Artpark.

The piece, a combination of spiraled metal and cloth drapery meant to comment on environmental contamination, was promptly vandalized and had to be removed. Tuttle, whose radical post-minimalist work would soon cause a huge controversy in the art world and vault him to lasting international acclaim, boarded a bus back to New York City.

After letting the idea of the Artpark sculpture spiral through his art practice for more than three decades, Tuttle returned to Western New York last October to reproduce 16 ephemeral versions of that sculpture in locations across the region.

And tonight, Tuttle will be back in town. The occasion is the opening of an exhibition documenting his sculpture project and the release of a new edition of handmade books of his poetry in the Western New York Book Arts Center.

The book, to be released in an edition of 200 and titled "8 Poems," is the result of a unique collaboration of Tuttle, the University at Buffalo's Art Galleries and Poetry Collection, and the Book Arts Center, a community-focused letter-press shop on Washington Street opened by Richard Kegler and Carima El-Behairy in 2008.

"8 Poems" is the latest in a series designed by Tuttle across his long career. Many of the books have been exhibited alongside his drawings and sculptural work in such institutions as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the New York Public Library.

Kegler, a successful type designer by trade, and print shop manager and artist Christopher Fritton, worked with Tuttle to hash out and refine the book's design. Arriving at the final product, a 31/2-by-51/2-inch book featuring a foil-stamped cover, handmade paper, letter-pressed pages and three-dimensional illustrations created from wood blocks carved by Tuttle, was a rewarding and labor-intensive process.

The production was a process of trial and error. Kegler and Fritton procured paper pulp from a supplier provider in Montreal, experimented with pigments to get the color just right and infused their own artistic sensibilities into the project.

On a recent afternoon in the center's basement print shop, Fritton was completing the

From the Business First:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/stories/2009/06/22/story15.html>

It's in the book

Print artistry lives downtown

Premium content from Business First - by Shannon Holfoth

Date: Monday, June 22, 2009, 12:00am EDT

This is the age of digital books, literary works you can read on thin, electronic devices such as Amazon's Kindle.

It's little surprise, then, that few people remember the artistry involved in early 20th century printing and bookbinding.

Richard Kegler and Carima El-Behairy are aiming to change that. The husband-wife team wants to educate people about historic book-making techniques, so they founded the Western New York Book Arts Center at the corner of Mohawk and Washington streets in Buffalo.

"When push comes to shove, I think most people want to hold a book in their hands when sitting down to read," Kegler said. "I defy anyone who says they enjoy reading long passages of text on a computer screen."

The center, part of the Western New York Book Arts Collaborative, has a full letterpress print shop, bookbinding equipment, screen printing facilities, an etching press, a reference library and a gallery.

The main-floor gallery features several pieces including a paper cutter from former Buffalo company Howard Iron Works, a hole-punching machine and a press used to make business cards and other small prints.

The space is home to 80 pieces total, which date from the 1890s to the 1940s.

Kegler and El-Behairy, who bought the building last year for \$240,000, funded \$100,000 in renovations to the space that previously housed the *Jewish Review* and Slotkin department store.

El-Behairy said volunteer workers helped keep labor costs down. Kegler added that he would like the center to become self-sustaining.

They aimed to generate \$1,000 in revenue per month through the center's store items and have exceeded that amount, according to El-Behairy. Online sales through etsy.com and the center's

online site generate \$500 to \$1,000 per month. El-Behairy said that last year, without a space, the collaborative pulled in a total of \$18,000 through membership and online sales.

Kegler and El-Behairy own P22 Type Foundry, a digital type foundry that creates and markets fonts to major publishers and individuals interested in unique fonts. P22 nets about \$500,000 per year, El-Behairy said.

The Western New York Book Arts Collaborative, which started four years ago, has more than 200 members. One of them is Pamela Harris, who participated in recent workshops on stitch binding and making a clamshell portfolio box.

"I thought it was so unique that there was someplace that just concentrates on books," she said. "To have something that allowed me to hone my skills on it and to come and expose myself to the various equipment that he's gathered, it's just priceless to get it at one spot."



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WNYBAC: A New Chapter

by Mark Norris



The past few weeks have been a particularly busy time for Rich Kegler and Carima El-Behairy, founders of the nonprofit Western New York Book Arts Collaborative (WNYBAC). Along with running their business, P22 Type Foundry—an internationally known, locally based computer font company—and raising two children, Rich and Carima have accepted the daunting challenge of renovating a downtown building and bringing a major conference to the area.

However, the couple seems positively exhilarated by the recent flurry of activity, particularly with the unveiling of the WNYBAC's permanent home, during Typecon 2008, an international typography conference held in Buffalo, July 15-20.

The ink is still fresh on the mortgage for the new Book Arts Center, located in the former Slotkin's department store at the intersection of Washington and East Mohawk streets, but the space is already taking shape. "We've chosen to stay in Buffalo," says Kegler, wiping plaster dust from his hands and looking around the building's now exposed first floor. "There's lots of really great things here, but there's also a lot people who grumble and say, 'Nothing's going on.' This is our chance to do something instead of saying, 'Wouldn't it be great if someone else did something.'"



Richard Kegler and Carima El-Behairy (photo by Rose Mattrey)

For three years, the WNYBAC has been quietly "doing something" for those with an interest in the printed form. Indeed, by hosting a series of bookmaking and print-related film screenings, workshops, and speakers, WNYBAC has been effectively sustaining and reviving interest for the printing arts in Buffalo.

Still, in a time when the notion that print is dead flows freely through cyberspace as accepted fact, one must wonder if book arts is simply a niche market or, worse, simply a cover for those with an interest in self-publishing.

"The resurgence and interest in the handmade and the tactile, from the indie-craft movement to scrapbooking, are all reactions to the computer where you can't penetrate the surface," says Kegler. "You can make all of these really cool things, but you're not really touching them. There's a lack of connection."

Typecon 2008, July 15-20

WNYBAC has partnered with the Society of Typographic Aficionados (SoTA) to bring Typecon 2008 to Western New York. An annual international conference that gathers some of the biggest names in typography, design, and printing together for a series of lectures, workshops, and tours, previous conferences have been held in Seattle, Boston, and New York. Pre-

Creating connections and creative collaborations is what the WNYBAC is all about. For its new headquarters, the group is preparing workspace facilities to be used by local high schools and colleges. In essence, WNYBAC is hoping to both educate the community and stamp out the "print is dead" theory one finely crafted letterpress edition at a time.

Along with a first floor museum, gift shop, and café, the Book Arts Center will contain rooms for printmaking and papermaking, offices for non-profit organizations, and a conference room for local businesses. Students from local colleges will be encouraged to use the center's unique

registration for the conference is required, but many of the events are open to the public. For more info, visit typecon.com.

Some conference highlights:

Tuesday, July 15, 8pm

Hallwalls Cinema—Type-themed “Pecha Kucha Night”—an evening of mini-presentations from design legends and rising stars.

Wednesday, July 16, 9pm

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, North Hall—An Evening with Stefan Sagmeister: Things I Have Learned in My Life So Far. The world famous designer and creator of album cover art for the likes of Lou Reed, the Rolling Stones, and David Byrne shares his wisdom.

Thursday, July 17, 8pm

University at Buffalo, Center for the Arts —Opening Night Extravaganza, featuring Dutch design innovators NLXL.

Friday, July 18, 8pm

Albright-Knox Art Gallery—A lecture with German typographer and designer Erik Spiekermann, the co-founder of FontShop, the first mail-order distributor for digital fonts.

Friday, July 18, 11pm

Mohawk Place—Odiorne, the Seriffics, and Etaoin Shrdlu.

collection of hand-operated presses and extensive lead type archive.

“It’s always important for students to understand the beginnings of typography,” says Tony Rozak, associate professor of Visual Studies at the University at Buffalo. “There’s always that idea that whenever you work in a technology, you always go back to the older one to refresh the hands-on experience. There is a particular quality of beauty to metal type on paper which you can’t replicate in any other way. It instills a craftsmanship that is wonderful.”

Kegler and El-Behairy have already partnered with local high schools for after-school opportunities and field trips. While the building is still being renovated, the educational component of the Book Arts Center is firmly in place.

With this proposed influx of students, and a permanent home located in close proximity to the downtown public library and near public transit lines, the Book Arts Center promises to be a vibrant location for learning and artistry.

“It’s not only self-expression, but also literacy promotion,” says El-Behairy. “You can’t set up type without knowing how to read. You have to read what you’re doing and then translate it backwards to create a print copy. It helps promote the language skill that seems to be lacking and promotes the written word.”

While the idea of a self-sustaining print resource center seems novel, many major cities around the country currently host such businesses. The wildly successful Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA) was just one example that the WNYBAC founders used as a business model. “They renovated three empty warehouses and turned it into a major draw,” says El-Behairy.

However, the success of MCBA alone was not enough to convince Kegler and El-Behairy to move forward with their venture. Ultimately, it was the fact that Buffalo’s rich printing history was on the verge on being forgotten and needed to be extended that inspired the couple to take on the challenge.

“At one point, we looked at moving out of Buffalo, but we decided, ‘Buffalo is a great place to live, let’s make it a little better.’” says El-Behairy. “Buffalo has such a great arts community, and this has been coming for a long time. It was just time for this to happen.”

For more info, visit wnybookarts.org.

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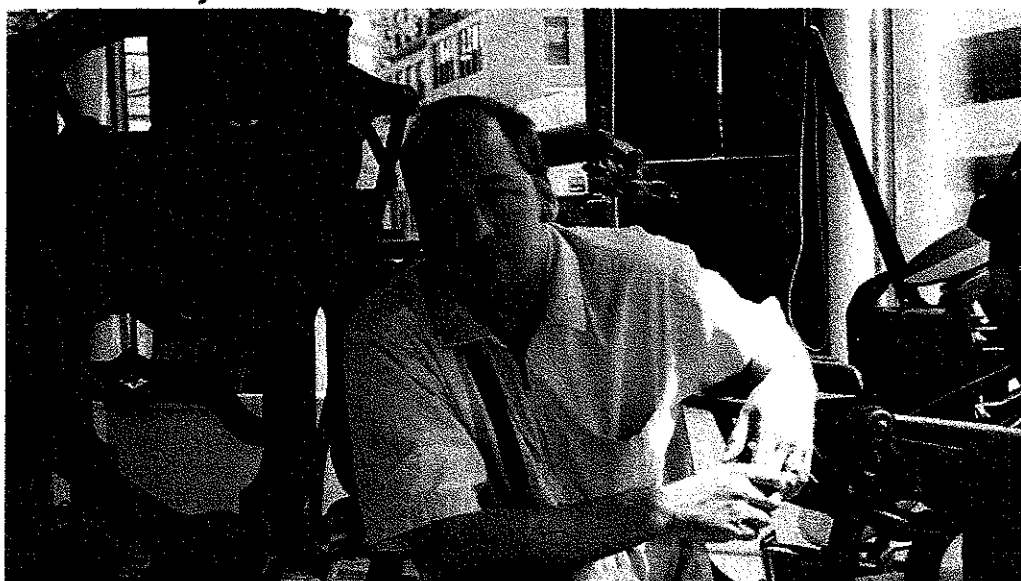
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Cover Story

WNY Book Arts Collaborative Celebrates its Grand Opening

by Geoff Anstey



WNYBAC executive director, Richard Kegler (photo by Rose Mattrey)

Rip it up & Print it again

The term “book arts” must be confusing to a lot of people. In this day and age, a book, magazine, or newspaper is nothing more than a machine-made vessel for information and ideas, and a term for the virtue of art’s messenger seems as inane as saying “money-finance.”

Many years ago, however, before electricity (let alone the computer), a lot of thought and work went into the mass production of the written word. Every page that was pressed with a carefully constructed typeset, made of expertly carved or molded characters, required art and skill. The Western New York Book Arts Collaborative wants to remind us of this, and through its newly opened Book Arts Center in downtown Buffalo. There they hope to teach the public how to use arcane presses and type pieces, and put the art back in printing.

Artvoice visited the Book Arts Center at the corner of Washington and Mohawk to check it out, and met up with WNYBAC’s executive director, Richard Kegler. The first thing we asked about was the location.

“We opened downtown for a couple a reasons, one being that for a long time there has been a lot of blight and vacant buildings downtown, and we figured there may be something we could find that would be reasonable,” Kegler says. “And the other was living in Buffalo, we want to see the downtown come back. And this would be our little contribution to helping that along.”

The Western New York Book Arts Collaborative started three years ago, but the goal of finding a building to house the organization and its equipment materialized just a year ago. The collaborative is a nonprofit

arts organization, but has received no financial support from the county or the state.

"A lot of local spending has been cut, with the whole economy the way it is," Kegler says. "In our quest to get seed money, we are being told that you have to be around for at least a year, and basically swim before given a life preserver.

Once a department store, the building at 468 Washinton Street has been gutted and transformed into a compact arts center with a gallery floor, mini-library, and full printing work-space, and all without a single penny of government money. Most impressive, though, is the array of antique equipment the organization has acquired; it provides not only a historic showcase on the gallery floor, but also all the tools to run the workshop itself, which Kegler describes as a "functional museum."

"Most the stuff we have here is between 1890 and 1940, and with a majority of it being from around the 1920s," Kegler says. "We even have wood type that dates before the turn of the 20th century."

He says that the greater part of the equipment was donated, but he's found stuff at auctions as well, where he'd find drawers of type being dumped into 55 gallon barrels and sold for scrap.

"Part of my motivation of doing this project was to rescue such equipment," he says. "One type face we got was the only one designed in Buffalo in the metal era. It was one that I previously did some research on, so I had seen a sample of it in book, but I had never actually seen the type itself before. Then there was a place that was going out of business in East Aurora, and in the basement they had a drawer of it. It was a nice surprise."

Kegler believes explains that many older fonts and print styles aren't recorded in libraries and computer databases, and so are in danger of being lost forever. He imagines the Book Arts Center as a place where those forms can be preserved and digitized.

"My day job was designing digital fonts, and most of what we did was revising historical forms," he says. "There are tens of thousands of digital fonts out there, but the history of type is still only partly tapped. We have stuff here that no one has digitized."

Asked what traditional printing adds to art in this day and age, Kegler equates book-making and artisanal printing to the slow food movement: "You could go out to McDonalds and Burger King to get a meal, or you can grow your heirloom tomatoes and have a meal that has seasons of planning behind it. It may not take much longer to consume, but the preparation and what has gone into it has a value to people that is worth something."

As intrinsic as that sounds, what Kegler describes has a lot of public value. The personal touch of traditional printing has fostered a global do-it-yourself scene, with scores of private and independent presses producing and selling unique posters, business cards, notebooks, and wedding invitations. The Book Arts Center, therefore, won't just be a place to pick up a new hobby, but a center for a burgeoning creative community that produces specialty goods.

The Book Arts Center marks its grand opening with a reception tonight (Thursday, May 21, 6-9pm). On exhibit is the collaborative's first-ever members show. For more information, visit www.wnybookarts.org.

—geoff anstey

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