

## Transcript

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:00:06 Speaker 1

I'm your host, Tracy LeBlanc, Chief Community Engagement Officer at Western New York Independent Living.

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For the past 10 years, Independent Living of the Genesee Region and the University Heights Art Association have created a welcoming and accessible space for artists with disabilities through the ARTiculations Project, an artist display area located right in the main entrance of ILGR.

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Joining us today to talk about the Articulations Project and the ten-year anniversary of the collaboration are Rae Frank, director of ILGR, as well as Larry and Mary Kinny from the University Heights Association.

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Welcome to the program.

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Ray, can you provide us with an overview of the ARTiculations collaboration here at ILGR and how did the project start and what benefits have you seen?

00:00:56 Speaker 2

Yes.

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So, the project started when I met Mary and Larry back in 2014.

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They were at the Summit for Aging, and they talked about their University Heights Arts Association project, and I was just very excited about it.

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I thought, we need to bring art to our community, to our center as well.

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So, we sat down and brainstormed a way to make it just for artists with disabilities in the Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming County area, and we've always managed to keep it to that.

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What made

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the Independent Living Center of Genesee region a good fit for the project?

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Well, it's a project that serves disabled people.

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Disabled people frequent ILGR's location.

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We're in our organization, University Heights Arts Association, serves people with disabilities and people who do not otherwise have access to the arts.

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So, it all seemed like a really good fit.

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It's really hit me the last several months to a year or two years or so that I, as a person that's been involved with art since high school, even prior to that grade school, you know, as a toddler.

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Anyway, art is an essential part of life and it's important to do.

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And it's great to have a venue like this as an outlet for people in the community

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to receive art supplies that otherwise may only have, you know, a broken crayon or some old pastels, if that, whatever.

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So at least they could, you know, have a little more in their arsenal of their toolbox to get going.

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And the more seasoned artist, it might be maybe a little too elementary, but there's a place for all of it.

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You have a special exhibition running through the end of April for the 10-year anniversary.

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Can you tell us what the exhibit features?

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Yes, we have posters on the wall that were the originating posters from when each artist's exhibit went up.

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So, Mary is a graphic artist, and she would always use one image from the exhibition to create the poster, and that would

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announce when the opening reception was going to be, and how long the exhibit would be up, along with the artist's name.

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And so, what we currently have on display are the posters from all of the artists that have had an exhibit with us.

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If someone's interested in more information about the ARTiculations Project at Independent Living of Genesee Region, how can they get more information?

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They could go to our website at [ilgr.org](http://ilgr.org) or they can contact us several different ways.

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I'll give you the e-mail and then the phone number.

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So, they could e-mail me at [rfrank@wnyil.org](mailto:rfrank@wnyil.org) or they could call us at 585-815-8501 ext.

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And if someone wants to come to the exhibit, is it open to the public?

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We're open 8:30 to 5:00 every Monday through Friday, and anybody can stop in to see the exhibit.

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That's all the time we have for this week.

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Thank you all for joining us this week to discuss the ARTiculations exhibit space.

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And thank you for tuning in to Independent Perspectives: A Public Affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

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I've been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.