As Thousands Celebrate Arts Advocacy Day, Slaughter Says "Arts are not only a vital part of a society, but an economic engine as well."

Rochester, NY –Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, today said that funding for the arts should be maintained as thousands celebrated Arts Advocacy Day 2012 in Washington and across the country. Today, thousands of advocates for the arts, including actor Alec Baldwin and musician Ben Folds, gathered at the U.S. Capitol in Washington to advocate for continued federal funding of the arts and celebrate the role arts play in American public life.

"I'm so proud to be the chairwoman of the Congressional Arts Caucus," stated Slaughter. "For over a decade, I've led the effort in Congress to maintain funding for the arts, because the arts are not only a vital part of a society, but an economic engine as well."

Again this year, Slaughter has led the fight for continued federal funding of the arts. On March 16, 2012, Slaughter sent a letter, signed by 87 Members of Congress, to the House Appropriations Committee supporting President Obama's proposed funding level for the arts. In November 2011, Slaughter announced that arts organizations throughout Western New York would receive $175,500 in federal funding. A full list of these organizations is below. Slaughter plans to announce four new grants for WNY arts organizations at the end of April.

According to Americans for the Arts, the arts industry has a vast impact on the nation's economy. Each year, the arts industry generates $166.2 billion annually in economic activity, provides 5.7 million full-time jobs, creates $104.2 billion in household income, and generates almost $17 billion in state and local revenue and $12.6 billion in federal income tax revenue. In New York's 28th Congressional District, the arts industry supports 1,681 arts-related businesses employing 17,244 people.

Slaughter said, "As far as I'm concerned, art doesn't have to apologize to anybody. For every $1 of federal funds spent on the arts we receive $9 in economic benefits, an incredible return on our investment while enhancing the public good at the same time. Art tells us who we were, who we are, and who we hope to be. And that is a great gift that we receive. I'm honored to be celebrating yet another Arts Advocacy Day, and look forward to announcing some additional good news for the Western New York arts community in the near future."

To learn more about Slaughter's role as co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, click here.

To view photos from Arts Advocacy Day 2012, click here.

Full list of grantees who in November 2011 received $175,500 to support arts in Western New York:

Arts Organization	Funding Awarded
Buffalo Area Grants	
Buffalo Media Resources, Inc.	
To support the Buffalo Youth Media Institute.	$28,000
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc.	
To support performances of American music with related educational activities.	$15,000
Rochester Area Grants	
BOA Editions, Ltd	
To support the production, promotion, and related expenses for new volumes of poetry, author interviews, and short fiction.	$22,500
Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.	
To support Conversations with Garth, a series of collaborative dialogues between Garth Fagan and a range of other leading artists.	$15,000
Genesee Street Corporation	
To support the Urban Youth Arts Education photography program.	$15,000
George Eastman House	
To support the preservation of films featuring the actresses Anna May Wong, Priscilla Dean, Miriam Nesbitt, Helen Gibson, and Mary Miles Minter.	$40,000
Geva Theatre Center, Inc.	
To support a production of Superior Donuts by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tracy Letts, directed by artistic director Mark Cuddy.	$20,000
Rochester Philharmonic	
To support the commissioning and premiere of a new work, including a composer residency, by American composer Margaret Brouwer.	$10,000
University of Rochester	
To support the publication and promotion of international literature in English translation.	$10,000
Total WNY Arts Funding	$175,500