

## Making a Difference

### Meet Nikita Kolesnichenko!

Nikita Kolesnichenko is an unassuming 14-year-old who has been coming to the Art House since he was 7 years old. Nikita is a first generation American whose family emigrated to Erie from Ukraine. It is not surprising that Russian is the language most often spoken in the Kolesnichenko's home, and yet English Language Arts is one of Nikita's favorite subjects at school. Currently, Nikita is an 8th grade student who also loves math and science, and he would like to attend college to become an accountant to help people with their finances.



What most people don't know about Nikita is that he loves to sew. Nikita helped to sew the quilt that was auctioned off in this year's Taste of the Arts Live Auction. Plus, he just recently started sewing a new quilt. Nikita said he enjoys sewing because it allows him to express his creativity. Relief Print and Photography are two other favorite classes of his at the

Neighborhood Art House, and maybe one day he will participate in our voice lessons as he is also an alto singer.

Like many of the students at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, Nikita Kolesnichenko has many talents. Some may be hidden, but the Art House has a way of finding them and helping them bloom. We are thrilled that Nikita finds ways to express himself here, and that he can continue to grow and develop into the person he wants to be. Thank you, Nikita, for sharing your time and talents with us!



### 2022 Taste of the Arts Sponsors

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201 East Tenth Street  
Erie, PA 16503

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## Special Thanks

Special thanks to members of all our committees who volunteer their time and efforts to help fulfill the mission of the Neighborhood Art House.

#### Women's Core Committee

Kathleen Burik  
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Lynne Elia  
Rebecca Hilbert  
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Beatriz Marin  
Barbara Pollock  
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#### Executive Director

Kelly Stolar, CFRE

#### Program Director

Lourdes Jasso

#### Community Art Director

Sarah Everett, MFA

#### Administrative Assistant

Alexis Snedeker

#### DATES OF NOTE

January 5 -  
January 26

Adult Clay Class, Thursday's from 6-8pm

January 9

Start of Winter/Spring Session

May 9

Winter/Spring Open House, 6pm

May 13

Art & Sole 5k at 9am

Winter 2022

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



**Giving Thanks,  
Wishing you Happy Holidays,  
and extending blessings to all as we  
come together and share new  
experiences in 2023!**



### MEMORIAL

A special thank you to the family of  
**Maggie Stolley,**  
a founding member of the Neighborhood Art  
House, for designating a memorial to the  
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House.

### WISH LIST

- Gift cards to stores that sell
- art supplies, healthy snacks,
- personal care items or general office supplies
- Individually packaged healthy snacks
- Sunflower seeds & suet for birds
- Potting Soil
- Children's gardening gloves
- Watercolor Paper



## Kids Corner

### Thanksgiving Centerpieces in Garden Class with Sr. Pat

Youth in Sr. Pat's Garden Class made Paper Bag Centerpieces with natural materials found around the Art House. They first collected grasses, lavender, dried weeds and milkweed, branches of crabapple, holly and burning bush. They then decorated the bag, stuffed newspaper in the bottom of the bag, and tied a cord around it. The students are excited to include these centerpieces at their Thanksgiving dinner!



Artwork made by Shanell, age 13, in watercolor class!



Our students love having volunteers help in class, Hooked on Books, and tutoring!



### NAH Spirit Week

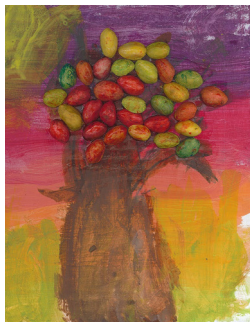
Students had the opportunity this Fall term to participate in Spirit Week! Categories included: Favorite Color Day, Favorite Animal Day, Wacky Wednesday, Jersey Day, and Pajama Day! Everyday two winners were selected from all participating students, and they were able to take home a special prize of their choice!

### ALADDIN at the Warner Theater

On October 27th the Neighborhood Art House was invited to discover a whole new world at Disney's ALADDIN, the hit Broadway musical, at the Warner Theater. It was an extraordinary theatrical event, where one lamp and three wishes made the possibilities infinite. In total, 66 students and family members were able to attend this magical event. Special thanks to Thomas J. Combs from NAC Entertainment, and Kate Neubert-Lechner from the Erie Play House for making this possible.



Visiting artist Joe Moss held a two-day workshop, and taught NAH students how to draw two-dimensional Alpha Art.



Artwork by Amina, age 7, using acrylic paint and pistachio shells!

## Community Art

### Ongoing Community Art Events

Community art events are taking place at the Art House each week and we welcome you to join us for a workshop or class! Feeling Fit exercise classes, taught by Dana Borczon are in full swing, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Open Studio has welcomed new artists and there's room for more! Joe Krol is teaching an adult painting class, for painters of all levels.



### Second Saturday Events

Second Saturday events are open to learners of all ages. In October, we learned songs and dances from around the world with Kelly Armor, Victoria Angelo, Nibal Abd el Karim, and Clarice Amani. November's Second Saturday was offered in conjunction with the Erie Public Library's Erie Makes initiative and attendees decorated tiny 'treasure chests,' as well as learned how to create hidden messages with a Morse code jewelry lesson taught by Mary Gavacs. In December, we will make cards with card-maker extraordinaire Annette Mackay, and some melty-bead creations.

### Homeschool Art Classes

Homeschool art classes on Wednesday mornings draw a talented group of students ages 7-15 to the Art House for intensive, hands-on lessons in the fine arts. Students spend one hour learning about art history and doing a complimentary project based upon famous artists with Jonilee Hlusko, as well as a one-hour session with a guest artist. Guest artists to date have included Christine Bowler, Mary Kay Geary, Caelin McDaniel, Sarah Everett, and Steve Mik. Classes will be offered again in the spring, and we look forward to welcoming some new students into the Homeschool Art program.

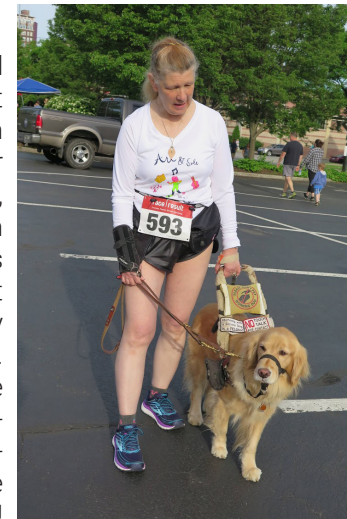


More information about these and additional upcoming events is available on the Community Art Events page of our website.

## Teachers and Volunteers

### Passle Helminski

Neighborhood Art House volunteer teacher, Passle Helminski finally had the chance to gain closure at the New York City Marathon, which she first started preparing for in 1993. After surviving an assault in 1993, which caused a torn carotid artery, and later a stroke, doctors said she may never run again. Passle has continued to defy all odds, and regained her strength in order to compete in the marathon. These past few months she has been busy training with her guide dog Zoey, but on the day of the race, she was accompanied by a human guide, provided by Achilles International. Although she completed the race in a longer time than she may have wanted, Passle was glad to finally cross the finish line, and have closure after almost 20 years. The Art House congratulates Passle on her success and completing the marathon!



Looking for a way to get involved with the Art House? We are always looking for more volunteers! There are many volunteer opportunities including: assisting in classes, participating in our Hooked on Books for Kids Program, teaching a workshop or class, and many more opportunities. To learn more, email Lourdes Jasso at [ljasso@neighborhoodart-house.org](mailto:ljasso@neighborhoodart-house.org) or give us a call to get started!

## Take a Moment with Kelly



It is hard to believe that a year has passed since our last holiday newsletter was published. So much has happened over the past year and we try our best to keep you up to date with everything occurring at the Art House. Even more importantly, we would like to let you know how all you do is key to making the Art House what it was, what it is, and what it is yet to be for so many young people. Every donation we receive is used to maximize its potential.

This past year we have opened our doors to many new individuals, families, and communities. We have maintained our focus on Erie's youth through our afterschool and summer programs and are back to 100% capacity since this summer. Additionally, we have expanded our reach to those who choose to attend on Saturdays or during the daytime who may not be the traditional Art House students, but who desperately need and appreciate our services. Through your help we have made connections with over 750 engaged learners this year providing a better future for significantly more through the arts. The arts help us to find beauty in life. What could be better?

Best-selling author, Melody Beattie, poignantly underscores our admiration for your faith and trust in us, the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, in this quote, "Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." You may have been with us from the very beginning, or you may have just joined us. It is our hope that you will stay with us in unity to keep the mission of the Art House alive and thriving. Thank you for the joy you bring!

~ Kelly Stolar, CFRE