



21st Century Fund

*A fund of the Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo*

What is the 21st Century Fund?

The 21st Century Fund is a membership driven charitable fund held at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo that strives to make a positive, substantial impact on Western New York. The Fund offers its 350+ members a unique opportunity to learn about key community issues and engage in a democratic, and participatory decision making process whereby each member has one vote to select the successful project that will receive the \$100,000 grant.

How does the 21st Century Fund work?

- Every other year, area nonprofits are invited to submit a grant application to support a high-impact project in the Western New York community.
- A member-driven review committee selects applicants who will present their project to the entire membership at the “Presentation Event”.
- The membership then votes for four finalists at the Presentation Event to move forward to the “Final Vote Event”.
- Finalists are paired with a local public relations firm who assist the nonprofit with a presentation for the “Final Vote Event”.
- At the Final Vote Event, the members choose the organization who will receive the \$100,000 grant to support a project that is of strategic importance to the Western New York Community.

What are the membership requirements?

- Membership is open to anyone who cares about Western New York.
- Membership cost is \$2,100, payable over five years, or \$1,000 payable over five years if you're under 30.
- Join as an individual, a family or sponsor another individual or group.
- Gift certificates are also available as a thoughtful and unique gift for anyone who cares about Western New York.



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What are the benefits of membership?

Members have the opportunity to network with others who care about WNY, learn about critical community needs, hear about innovative local projects and meet the dynamic leaders of area nonprofit organizations. Members will also receive Community Foundation publications. In addition memberships are an excellent way to teach your family about charitable giving.

Who has won the grant award in the past?

- **Martin House Restoration Corporation** for restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin D. Martin House
- "Art on Wheels," sponsored by the **Burchfield-Penney Art Center** and the **Materials Reuse Project**
- **Buffalo State College:** The Community Maritime Center
- **Buffalo Zoological Society:** The South American Rainforest project
- **WNED:** "Buffalo Architecture Experience," a DVD highlighting our region's architectural treasures

For more information on how to join the 21st Century Fund, contact the Donor Services Officer, Kate Masiello, at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo at (716) 852-2857.