

Vision:

WEDI's vision is that all residents of Western New York can succeed and thrive in a culturally inclusive community.

Mission:

WEDI strengthens communities through a continuum of educational and financial resources, removing systemic barriers to economic equity for all Western New Yorkers.



It's been an intense year for WEDI. Since last November, the Bazaar has suffered a break-in but recovered with love and donations pouring in from all over the country. We went on to have our most successful Winterfest ever, in April. Then, to celebrate our business owners and our community, we had our first ever Bazaar Bash block party in July.

All along, we raised \$10.1 million for our \$11.5 million capital campaign and had a groundbreaking at 1432 Niagara Street in August. We had not one but two Page 1 stories in *The Buffalo News* about how vital the new Bazaar is to our city and region.

On September 20, everything ground to a temporary halt when a fire devastated the Bazaar at 25 Grant Street, burning out 11 incubating restaurants and shops.

We've spent the fall combing the region for places to graduate the Bazaar businesses to or to use as a temporary Bazaar. As of December 1 we have a lease at the former Expo Market at 617 Main Street where you will find favorites from the Bazaar and new businesses getting their chance to incubate with us from our long waitlist.

All the while, we've been running our education programming for 55 English language learners in grades 1-12, and continuing to support dozens of microloan clients to establish and sustain businesses in the region - businesses from the unique and delicious Extra Extra pizza co-op in 5 Points to a trucking company in Lancaster to an African clothier in Orchard Park to a family nurse practitioner in Orchard Park and Days Park Tavern on Allen Street.

The beauty in this tumultuous year is in the new connections and partnerships we've been offered and in the redoubled support offered by our old friends and sponsors. I am grateful for all the institutional and individual sponsors of our events, our capital campaign and our educational and economic development programs.

Have a safe and happy New Year. Thank you for all you do and have done for WEDI to help our region thrive.

Carolynn Welch

Carolynn Welch
Executive Director



WEDI is a Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and a Microloan Intermediary for the Small Business Administration (SBA). **WEDI has disbursed more than \$1.5M since becoming a CDFI in 2016.**



- Our Clients**
- Nearly 80% are racial/ethnic minority-owned businesses
 - 50% are women-owned businesses
 - More than 50% are businesses owned by people who entered U.S. as refugees/asylee
 - More than 85% are low-income



West Side Bazaar Fire Update

The fire at the Bazaar on Grant Street on the morning of September 20 was heartbreaking and traumatic for the 11 immigrant and refugee business owners that were incubating with us and for everyone on the WEDI team who works to support those businesses and dozens more in the region. By afternoon, our social media was humming and donations began arriving.

In the two months that have followed we've had about 500 donations from individual and institutional supporters both old and new. We had \$5 from Houston and the U.K. and \$10 from Sweden! We heard from a bride and groom who chose to donate in lieu of purchasing wedding favors. Nichols School and Nardin Academy held student-run fundraisers on our behalf. One Bazaar fan (Danielle L.) ran her own social media fundraiser for us! Our own loan client, Extra Extra Pizza, donated \$2,500 collected from customers in lieu of tips. The Lexington Food Co-op's first drive for us gathered a record breaker for them of over \$13,000. Alice Ever After Books collected for us at a story time! It's been incredible.



We are grateful and we are hard at work graduating some Bazaar businesses to new spaces and finding others a place to be together, again. The new year holds so much promise. Watch our social media for Bazaar updates. Thank you to everyone who showed they care that our community hub survives and thrives.

NY State Senator Sean Ryan
inspects the fire damage

I love this place, both for
its food and its mission!
— Gina B., Buffalo

Coming in Early 2023
Find old favorites and discover
new Bazaar shops and restaurants
at the **Downtown Bazaar by
WEDI at 617 Main Street,
Buffalo!**

**Grand Opening
DIM SUM in Hamburg!**
Find 007 Chinese online and for
takeout at 84 Lake Street.

Delaware North and the Buffalo
Sabres with support from Block Club
and volunteers from KeyBank threw
us a **sold out fundraiser** on Nov. 3,
with all proceeds going to us.



**Building Community,
Opportunity & The New
WEST SIDE
BAZAAR**

Turn Up the Heat on our Capital Campaign!

NOVEMBER 2022

We have raised more than \$10.1 million toward our \$11.5 million goal thanks to the incredible generosity of our community.

We officially broke ground on August 30 and plan to be open by August, 2023. The fire at the now closed Bazaar on Grant Street sparked a nationwide torrent of love for the Bazaar in donations and messages, making building the new one more important than ever.

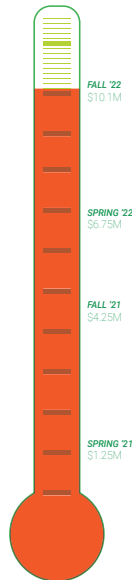
At 5X the size of the former Bazaar on Grant Street, the new Bazaar will be home to more entrepreneurs with more kinds of businesses – retail, restaurants and professional services, as well as a test kitchen for cooking classes and private events, class/conference rooms and affordable, rentable event space.

Please join our campaign to build a flagship destination where community and opportunity come together. With large gifts from venerable Buffalo institutions now counted, we have just under \$1 million left to raise. Everyone's support and gifts of all sizes will get us there! wedibuffalo.org/donate.

More than ever, the Bazaar is a symbol of the resurgence of our city and region. And always, hope. Hope that more entrepreneurs will find economic security for their families while making their business dreams become reality.

Find out more about the campaign at
WEDIBuffalo.org/capital-campaign
or contact Capital Campaign Manager
Laura F. Munson at lmunson@wedibuffalo.org.

**\$11.5
MILLION
GOAL**



Education News

The ENERGY (grades 1-5), FLY (grades 6-8) and Launch (grades 9-12) programs are piloting a program with Chapin Hall and the Cullen Foundation to test new social and emotional learning assessments. Launch is also beginning a process with Buffalo-based VIA Evaluations to create a logic model and determine the best metrics to assess and report to our funders.

Launch is working with Cold N'arly to build a recording studio at Lafayette International Community High School for students to produce their own music and podcast.

Plans are forming with Squeaky Wheel and Buffalo Maritime Center for Launch in the spring.

ENERGY and FLY are still hiring program assistants and we are recruiting volunteers for all three programs.



Ways to Help WEDI & our Region Thrive

Volunteer

- In the English Language Learner after school program for grades 1-12

Contact Education Director Courtney Yonce-Swain cyonce@wedibuffalo.org

• At WEDIfest on April 14, 2023

- As a business mentor

Contact Community Engagement Coordinator Cristen Gregory cgregory@wedibuffalo.org

Offer Financial Support

- As a Dreammaker – Recurring donors allow us to efficiently build budgets and strategize
- Make an end of year donation
- As a Legacy Donor – Impact the region forever with a gift to WEDI in your estate plans
- Select WEDI on AmazonSmile
- Shop online through iGive to benefit WEDI

Contact External Relations Director Erin Kelly ekelly@wedibuffalo.org
or Development Coordinator Elizabeth Lovria elovria@wedibuffalo.org



Donate Here

Shop & Eat Equitably!

Find food for every appetite, shopping for every need or treat, and professional and essential services like daycare, haircare, landscaping and medical help, in every corner of the city on our map.

Find a WEDI Supported Business Here



ENERGY: 20 students

First time since 2020!

FLY: 12 students

LAUNCH: 23 students

ENERGY/FLY students are primarily West Side, with some Black Rock and Riverside; LAUNCH students are throughout the city.

Buffalo Sabres hero Dominik Hasek visited to learn more about our mission and working with Hasek's Heroes. Looks like Chef Htay's (of Nine & Night Thai Cuisine) daughter is going to learn to skate!

