



Good evening! My name is Denise Juron-Borgese. I am an architect, a Project Manager in Development with Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation and the President of **Buffalo Architecture Foundation**.

I am so delighted to be here tonight, graciously hosted by the *Western New York Book Arts Collaborative* and celebrating **6 Minute Building Stories** with you!



***Many thanks to***

- Eric Jackson-Forsberg and Khrista Richardson of WNYBAC for working with us on this collaboration;
- to our esteemed presenters for sharing their Building Stories with us;
- to our devoted and enthusiastic volunteers;
- to Lloyd's Taco truck for joining us outside; and
- to our generous sponsors: the Buffalo/Western New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Baer & Associates, MidCity Office Furniture and Rigidized Metals.

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It is my pleasure and privilege to introduce you to **Buffalo Architecture Foundation**—its mission and its programs, in particular, ***Building Stories***.

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**Buffalo Architecture Foundation** invites the community to discover architecture, to become stewards of the built environment and to advocate for design excellence.

This mission is implemented through 3 main programs: ***Architecture+Education***, the ***Pro Bono Publico Awards*** and ***Building Stories***.



***Architecture+Education*** is an innovative, award-winning, collaboration between local architects and educators using hands-on architectural concepts to teach students math, science, history, art and technology within the New York State curriculum.

Founded as an initiative of AIA in 2000, ***Arch+Ed*** brings great momentum to the foundation.





The bi-annual program kicks off with an all-day, intensive symposium structured to develop creative lesson plans that will be implemented during two months at select Buffalo Public Schools.



***Architecture+Education*** culminates in a wonderful exhibition of student work at a local gallery.

The program actively engages students from UB's School of Architecture & Planning and recently began a collaboration with *Young Audiences of Western New York* on expanding its outreach into more classrooms.





The ***Pro Bono Publico Awards*** recognize exemplary *Pro Bono* Services provided to not-for-profit clients by Citizen Architects, as well as by allied practitioners in the construction industry, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture and planning.

This award is presented at the annual AIA Design Awards and honors achievements in *Design Excellence* and *Distinguished Service*.



The very first ***Pro Bono Publico Awards*** were bestowed last November.

**Matthew Zinski** and **Michele Han** were the recipients of the ***Pro Bono Publico Award in Design Excellence*** for the Capoeira Cultural Arts Center and Sol Rise Homestead.

Their transformation of a formerly abandoned residence and adjacent vacant lots will serve two unique uses: a not-for-profit organization promoting Afro-Brazilian culture and an urban farm.



**Robert Stark**, Principal of Chantreuil | Jensen | Stark Architects, was the recipient of the ***Pro Bono Publico Award in Distinguished Service*** for the Buffalo Fire Boat Visitors Center and Firehouse.

The proposed project includes the renovation of Buffalo Fire Department Engine 20 into a boathouse and visitor center for the Edward M. Cotter, America's oldest working fireboat and a National Historic Landmark.



And now, on to ***Building Stories***.

***Buildings Stories*** is a multi-media, personal history project documenting and sharing individual experiences with architecture, construction, landscape and planning throughout Western New York.

***Building Stories*** submissions are featured on the foundation website, *BuffaloArchitecture.org*, and comprise a brand new *University at Buffalo Libraries* digital collection that can be accessed online at UBdigit.

### Why I Love the Peace Bridge

The Peace Bridge has been the center of much debate, most of which assumes that structure is an ugly disgrace, an eyesore to be replaced by something better and more disagree.

My reasons for falling in love with the Peace Bridge are simple. I was not born and raised here. I am a native of Western New York, and I have become a resident of Buffalo. The Peace Bridge, is not a fancy, pretty bridge, and this hometown has muscle.

Standing astride the mighty Niagara, the Peace Bridge shoulders a never-ending flow of traffic, day and night. It bears the load with her five arches. To keep Parker through-traffic. There is no perfect symmetry. Lady refuses to be boring.

Wearing tons of steel and concrete, she is giving below her to receive the glory while she foots knows how to get dressed up for a night on the all work and no play. She can put on a show with all work and no play.

Following the opening of the Peace Bridge in 1927, America have journeyed through a Depression, the moon landings, the Civil Rights movement, the events of September 11, 2001, the dawn of the 21st century. The Peace Bridge remains a constant.



### Grandpa Braun's House

Grandpa Braun, a cabinet maker came to America with his tools and a dream. He left his beloved Louise in Germany with the understanding that once he had a job he would send a wooden trunk with a ticket to America. Grandpa was greeted by Lady Liberty and his brother Great Uncle Julius. When Louise arrived in America, the marriage took place—what faith she had in their love!

Once they settled in Buffalo, he prospered working on the impressive mansions lining Delaware Avenue and the surrounding area. Grandpa finally had enough money to purchase 253 Northampton Street, a two-family home with three bedrooms, two parlors, dining room, and a front porch for friends and family to gather. Large windows filled the house with sunshine. The backyard had room for play and a large vegetable garden. There the family thrived with love, laughter, and the good smells of German cooking.

He created, Grandpa, working on a Delaware baby grand piano. A wooden toolbox all drawer drop leaf table.

He designed a shed in the backyard for his garden. He designed, full of compartments for all his tools. He designed the basement. One night, the family dined wine spraying the basement ceiling. Grandpa Northampton house. He would drink a warm glass of wine, the cold was gone!

and one by one, four of the children were born. In the home on my mother's wedding day, I was born. I was born in with Grandpa and a new chapter in my life. The room was filled with furniture he had made.



### Buffalo Underground - An Excursion into the Depths of Scajaquada Creek






Snaking beneath the streets with its kind of engineered grandeur typical of the Scajaquada Creek Culvert, the underground is haunting and subtle.

With a ceiling height reflecting the depth in the slow-flowing, mirror water, the first impression is a seemingly perilous step into ankle-deep wading. As one moves deeper, sunlight is lost, the moist air thickens, and the breeze chills. But taken at a slow, careful pace expected of spaces of reverence, one discovers rhythmic, concrete ribs and vaulted, masonry ceilings—flaking and stained—which recede into a darkness intermittently interrupted into sight as sunlight perforates through manholes, gliding down cobwebbed walls.

Coordinates: 42.9230, -78.8565

Building Story by Lois Jehle Juron



***Every building has a story. Endearing and enduring and stories.***

***Building Stories*** highlight the power of place.

By inviting you to share *your* unique ***Building Story*** with **Buffalo Architecture Foundation**, we are seeking to reveal fresh perspectives, to spark new conversations, to encourage and collect stories that might not otherwise be articulated.





I hope that you will visit us at *BuffaloArchitecture.org* to learn more about the foundation, join us in ***building appreciation from the ground up*** and consider sharing your own story.

## Donations

It is now my pleasure to introduce you to my fellow BAF Board Member, 6Mbs Chair and Assistant Professor of Interior Design at Buffalo State College, Bhakti Sharma.