

## Philanthropy & The Arts

Grades 7 & 8

2 Class Periods

### Program Segments

- Introduction (approximately 5 minutes)
- A Legacy for the Future (approximately 5 minutes)
- Kleinhans for the Community (approximately 9 minutes)
- A Hall Where You Belong (approximately 4 minutes)

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the world and local events that contributed to the economic boom and rise of industry during the early 1900s
- Understand the effects of the economic boom and how the environment impacted philanthropy and shaped the Buffalo community
- Recognize the impact of Kleinhans Music Hall on arts and culture in Buffalo throughout history and to this day

### Instructional Resources

- *Kleinhans' Gift to Buffalo*
- Paper
- Pen/Pencil
- Kleinhans Music Hall Worksheet



Photo courtesy: Buffalo History Museum

### Procedures

#### CLASS PERIOD 1

1. Prior to viewing the video segments, the teacher will explain that *Kleinhans' Gift to Buffalo* tells the story of Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, NY. The teacher will ask the Focus Questions:
  - Why was the music hall created in 1939?
  - What else was going on in Buffalo and the nation as a whole during that time?
  - What is the role of Kleinhans Music Hall in the community today?
2. The Teacher will distribute the Kleinhans Music Hall Worksheet. Students will watch the video segments and take notes on the worksheet.

## CLASS PERIOD 2

1. The teacher will remind the students of the video segments from *Kleinhans' Gift to Buffalo* that they watched the class before.
2. The students will be given time to complete the Kleinhans Music Hall Worksheets. If they don't recall some of the information, fellow students or the teacher can help with the answers.
3. The teacher will then ask the same Focus Questions from before viewing the videos segments:
  - Why was the music hall created in 1939?
  - What else was going on in Buffalo and the nation as a whole during that time?
  - What is the role of Kleinhans in the community today?
4. As part of the class discussion, these topics should be included:
  - Features in the city of Buffalo that contributed to its rise during the early 1900s
  - The Pan American Exposition
  - The population and subsequent economic boom of the early 1900s
  - The impact of a music hall on community life

## Assessment Task

Students will participate in a class discussion and turn in a completed Kleinhans Music Hall Worksheet.

## Adaptations for Grades 9-12

- Students could write an essay or letter of support on the importance of Kleinhans Music Hall and how the building serves multiple purposes within the Western New York community.
- Students could write an essay about using their own funds to support an existing organization or building, or create a new one, and explain how their philanthropy would have a positive impact on the surrounding community.

## Extension Activity (optional)

- Students can read through the Kleinhans Music Hall memories (on the Buffalo Toronto Public Media website: <https://www.wned.org/television/wned-productions/kleinhans-gift-to-buffalo/kleinhans-memories/>) and share their own experiences (if applicable) of visiting Kleinhans Music Hall.



Photo courtesy:  
Buffalo History  
Museum

## Kleinhans Music Hall Worksheet

1. During the early 1900s, Buffalo was the \_\_\_\_\_ largest city in the country.
2. What features and/or events contributed to Buffalo's growth during the 1900s?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who were Edward and Mary Seaton Kleinhans? What type of business did they own in Buffalo?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" program supported infrastructure projects that make a city work and boost the economy by putting people to work. Kleinhans Music Hall was just one of many projects supported by this program. Name 3 other buildings in Buffalo that were created as a result of the President's program:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the Elmwood Music Hall originally used for? \_\_\_\_\_
6. List 3 factors that contributed to the Kleinhans' decision to leave their fortune to the people of Buffalo:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. More than \$600,000 came from the \_\_\_\_\_ to aid in the creation of Kleinhans Music Hall.
8. Kleinhans Music Hall was officially opened on October 12, 1940. What other major world event was taking place during this time? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Shortly after Kleinhans Music Hall opened, two important people in United States history gave speeches in the hall. Name these two historical figures:  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Kleinhans Music Hall is a place for the entire community. List 4 purposes that the hall is used for today:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_