



# ON CREATIVE ECONOMY BY MEGAN ROGERS

✉ MROGERS@BIZJOURNALS.COM

☎ 518-640-6815

🐦 @ALBBIZMEGAN

► NEWS TICKER



DONNA ABBOTT-VLAHOS

*"If you looked at relocation, it's a disease of isolation," says Angela McNerney, president and CEO of the Troy-based Tech Valley Connect.*

## CEG OFFERS RELOCATION, RECRUITMENT SERVICES

The Center for Economic Growth will continue offering the relocation and retention services that the nonprofit Tech Valley Connect provided large corporations, banks, colleges and other clients. Tech Valley Connect is winding down operations after six years.

The nonprofit, based in Troy, assisted employees relocating to the area and their families in developing connections. Tech Valley Connect set up informational interviews at companies for spouses who were moving to the area because of a partner's career change and answered questions about the area's culture that some employees might be hesitant to talk about with future employers.

CEG, a regional nonprofit that promotes private-sector growth, has begun Talent Connect to continue Tech Valley Connect's mission. Talent Connect matches CEG's desire to bring more workers to the region and to promote the Albany region as a desirable area for workers to relocate, said Mike Hickey, CEG's interim president and CEO. The program will provide pre-hire consultations and dual career support and offer community integration and cultural transitioning services.

Talent Connect is a fee-based program. An annual membership costs \$975.

TWO QUESTIONS WITH

## White on leaving: Retiring not in cards



Marcia White took over leadership at SPAC in 2005 as the performing arts venue was working to reverse its finances.

White will leave behind an organization that's broken even for 11 years when she departs at the end of 2016, following Saratoga Performing Arts Center's 50th anniversary.

*"What's very important is that SPAC is a real catalyst for growth. We're one of the reasons that businesses grow or locate here. It's one of the three things companies want: Good education systems, good hospitals and a quality of life."*

White, who is in her 60s, says the word "retire" is not in her vocabulary, though she does not know where she will head after SPAC.

**SPAC has several resident companies and you've made a push to expand to increase audience engagement around classical performances. Why was that a priority?** I think we were one of the first performing arts centers that decided 10 years ago to start pre-events. The purpose was to create something to get people here early, get them engaged socially and then provide them with a great performance. (Example: Last year, SPAC hosted a Pixar night, where clips from Pixar



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Marcia White does not know where she will head after SPAC, but the word "retire" is not in her vocabulary.

films were played, followed by the orchestra playing from the movie's soundtrack. SPAC also hosts family nights and events to introduce families to orchestra and ballet members.)

What I say is once we get them in the door, I think we've got them. It's incredibly important to find something. Connecting the audience to the artist is incredibly important to us and I think that's one thing we do well. It's very important to be innovative, to be moving forward, creating new ways to enhance

and open up the world of classical performing arts to the next generation and this generation.

**What are some of the big issues that the leaders of SPAC will address in the future?** In the future, I think the challenge for the performing arts remains the same. It's raising the funds necessary to put on the kind of dynamic programming, changing programming you need to attract the audience that is here, retain the audience and build new audiences.

► COMING SOON

## HIGH-END WINE BAR COMING TO ALBANY'S WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Developer Jeff Buell and bar owner Mike Graney are moving forward on plans to open a high-end wine bar in Albany's warehouse district.

The site plan received conditional approval at an Albany Planning Board meeting last week. Plans for apartments

at 960 Broadway, also in the warehouse district, were approved at the same meeting. The two projects are part of the district's new zoning overlay.

In recent years, there's been momentum in Albany's warehouse district, where a number of restaurants

and bars have opened.

Sequence Development's Buell and Graney, owner of Graney's Stout, an Irish bar, plan to open the wine bar at 897 Broadway. The wine bar will be across the street from Graney's Stout and next door to Wolff's Biergarten.

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