

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

125 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210
T: (518) 463-4478 | F: (518) 462-1522
www.albanyinstitute.org

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Instagram: AlbanyInstitute

NEWS

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CONTACT: Aine Leader-Nagy
Public Relations & Marketing Associate
leader.nagya@albanyinstitute.org
(518) 463-4478 ext 408

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

*Maria Vann most recently served as Director/ Chief Curator of the
Maritime Museum at Battleship Cove.*

ALBANY, NY– The Albany Institute of History & Art has a new Director of Education: Maria Vann.

Maria Vann was the former Director/Chief Curator of the Maritime Museum at Battleship Cove. Vann has worked for institutions including the Iroquois Indian Museum, New York State Historical Association, Fenimore Art Museum, and as an adjunct history professor at SUNY College at Oneonta.

The Albany Institute’s Executive Director Tammis Groft was happy to make the appointment: “Maria brings a wealth of experience to the museum, including ‘best practices’ in museum education, knowledge of New York State history, and strong interests in American art.”



“I am thrilled to begin work at the Albany Institute of History & Art because of its rich legacy and service to diverse audiences that fosters real connections for visitors to and from the Capital Region,” says Vann. “As a museum educator, I am committed to providing an environment where each visitor can make new and sometimes reflective personal connections and I am excited to support this museum as a community focused site for deep learning and fun.”

Media Inquiries: Aine Leader-Nagy, Public Relations & Marketing Associate
(518) 463-4478 ext 408 | leader.nagya@albanyinstitute.org

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Vann has created and conducted an array of educational programs for school groups aligned with learning standards as well as programs for the general public and home schoolers. She has conducted children's programs including art workshops and camps, organized history and art lectures with the likes of Victoria Wyeth and Carol Berkin, planned multi-disciplinary workshops, was a Conference on New York State History committee member, and conducted events such as juried art shows and several Iroquois cultural festivals.

Her experience includes providing professional development opportunities for teachers throughout New York State which included conducting a two-year long Teaching American History Grant program for educators throughout Rockland County and several October Conferences for Teachers. Vann has managed and trained docents and interpreters for tours and in the use of Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS). She has supervised teen interpreters for Native American programming, interns for college credit and experience, and graduate students working toward degrees in museum studies and public history.

In addition, Vann has piloted historical research for interpretive documents such as highlight guides for art exhibitions, historic buildings, and was a museum consultant for the D & H Canal Linear Park in Sullivan County. Her creation of curriculum for educators includes pre- & post visit materials and distance learning for children/youth about subjects such as the Erie Canal, Iroquois culture, and HMS *Titanic*.

Vann has published academic articles about subjects such as Hercules Mulligan, Dutch Colonial Women, Azorean role during World War II, Iroquois Arts, and presented at conferences including AASLH and the International Congress of Maritime History in Ghent, Belgium. She authored the 2015 Morris prize winning article *Sirens of the Sea: Female Slave Ship Owners of the Atlantic World, 1650-1870* published in ***CORIOLIS: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Maritime Studies***. Vann has served as a guest curator for exhibitions, served as museum consultant, and created educational materials for museums including the National Baseball Hall of Fame, New York State Museum, and the D & H Canal Museum.

She has a BS in History from SUNY College at Oneonta and an MA in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum's lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

The exhibition galleries, Museum Shop, and the new Crisan Café at the Albany Institute are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. In addition, the café and museum shop are open Tuesdays from 10am-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment.

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Current admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the café or museum shop. The museum offers free admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. To learn about discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of www.albanyinstitute.org.

For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19th century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute), Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute), and Instagram (AlbanyInstitute)

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