

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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## NEWS

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## HUDSON RIVER PANORAMA KEEPS ON FLOWING AT THE ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

### Free Community Day and Hudson 401 Map Project Announced

ALBANY, NY—Christine Miles, director of the Albany Institute of History & Art, announced today that the museum will extend its comprehensive exhibit, *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*, through 2010. The exhibit opened in February 2009 in conjunction with the statewide celebration of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, and was slated to close on January 3, 2010. However, its popularity among the public, as well as students and educators, has inspired the Institute to postpone the closing until December 2010.

“We have been amazed at the public reaction to this historic exhibit,” Miles said. “Tens of thousands of people passed through our doors in 2009—not only museum visitors but students, families, teachers, researchers, scholars, and others with a passion for the Hudson River and New York history. Their response has been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic. So many have said that weren’t able to see as much of the exhibit as they would have liked and were hoping to come back again.”

The extension is also an opportunity for the Institute to continue showcasing some of the prized objects from its esteemed collection; items that haven’t been seen in many years. “*Hudson River Panorama* has been an opportunity for us to bring out hundreds of objects from our collection,” Miles said. “These objects truly speak to our mission of collecting and preserving the history of the Hudson Valley. We may not have an opportunity like this again for a long time.”

### COMMUNITY DAY

In celebration of the announcement, the Albany Institute will offer a free Community Day on Sunday, January 10, with complimentary admission for all visitors during regular hours of noon to 5 p.m.

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## FOLKLORE PRESENTATION

Also scheduled for Sunday, January 10, is the first in a four-part series entitled *Hudson River Folklore*, featuring a variety of presentations related to the history and traditions of life along the Hudson. Cosponsored by the New York Folklore Society, scheduled activities include music, dance, crafts, and storytelling. On Sunday, January 10, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, visitors will meet three people whose Hudson River livelihoods have become a lost art form: John Mylod, one of the last remaining shad fishermen on the Hudson; Bob Wills, an ice yachting expert; and tugboat operator John Callahan. Presenters will demonstrate their craft and talk informally about the traditions of working and living on the Hudson. *Hudson River Folklore* is made possible by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts' Folk Arts Program.

## COMMUNITY MAP PROJECT

In conjunction with the extension of *Hudson River Panorama*, the Albany Institute will launch a community-participation project called *Hudson 401*. Based on William Wade and William Croome's 1845 map of the Hudson River—which has been the centerpiece of the exhibit—the Institute will create a corresponding panoramic map of the Hudson River valley using contemporary photographs provided by members of the community.

Community members will participate in development of the map by submitting photographs that depict people living, working, or playing along the river, its towns and cities, and its natural environs. The Institute will affix the photos to a map of the Hudson River at the locations identified on the photographs. The map will be positioned above the enlarged reproduction of the 1845 Wade and Croome map now on display in the Hall Gallery. These two complementary displays will offer comparative views of the Hudson River in 1845 and today, revealing how the river has changed or remained the same over the intervening century and a half.

Photographs will be collected and assembled in early 2010, with an anticipated debut in April 2010. The Albany Institute will continue to collect images for the community map throughout the year, with the goal of digitally recording the finalized map. For more information about the map, or to download submission guidelines, please visit [www.albanyinstitute.org/401.htm](http://www.albanyinstitute.org/401.htm) or call (518) 463-4478.

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