

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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## NEWS

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## ALBANY INSTITUTE NAMES MICHAEL WEIDRICH DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

ALBANY, NY—Christine Miles, executive director of the Albany Institute of History & Art, announced today that Michael Weidrich has been named the museum's Director of Corporate Development.

“Michael has been one of the Capital District's most honored advocates and supporters,” Miles said in announcing the appointment. “His tireless efforts on behalf of promoting our region's superb cultural community have resulted in the exponential growth of events such as LarkFest, Art on Lark, and 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, which have benefitted local arts organizations immensely. We are excited and proud to have him working on behalf of the nation's second oldest museum.”

In his previous position, Michael was the Executive Director of the Lark Street Business Improvement District from 2007 to 2009. During that tenure, he produced the three largest events in the 30-year history of LarkFest and also expanded Art on Lark to a full-fledged street festival for the arts. Additionally, he co-produced the 2007 and 2008 Monday Nights in the Park Concert Series and created the annual events, A Taste of Lark Restaurant Week and Winter WonderLark with the Santa Speedo Sprint.

Michael is a board member of the Upstate Artists Guild, the Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Council, and The Stakeholders Inc., and is a member of Leadership Tech Valley's class of 2010. Through the Upstate Artists Guild, he founded and coordinates Albany's 1st Friday arts walk, an increasingly popular event which has been held each month, without interruption, since its inception in 2006. Through The Stakeholders, he established the Arts Ambassador Institute, a program to educate Gen X'ers about philanthropy and leadership for the Capital Region arts.

Michael was named a “40 Under 40” by *The Business Review* newspaper in 2009; received the Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau 2008 Hospitality Excellence Award for 1st Friday: Albany; and has been honored by *Metroland* newspaper, the Capital District Gay & Lesbian Community Council, and the Lark Street Business Improvement District for his volunteer work in the arts and community.

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“It is an honor to be joining the Albany Institute of History & Art,” Michael said. “I hope to fully utilize my experience and knowledge of the arts, community development, and economic development to help usher the Institute into the 21st century and ensure its presence in the Capital Region for another 200 years. I’ve lived across upstate New York, 18 years in Buffalo and 12 years in Syracuse, and have found myself in the best city in the state: Albany.”

Michael holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Digital Art from Syracuse University and an Advanced Certificate in Educational Technology with a concentration in Digital Art & Photography from the College of St. Rose. He is currently finishing his Masters in Business Administration with a certificate in Not-For-Profit Business Management. Michael also attended the nationally renowned Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts.

The Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791 and is one of the oldest museums in the United States. The Institute is dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting and promoting interest in the history, art, and culture of Albany and the Upper Hudson Valley. The museum achieves this mission through its collections, exhibitions, education programs, library, research projects, publications, and other programs offered to the general public.

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