

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## Albany Institute of History & Art

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2, 2011

### CONTACT:

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## LAST CALL FOR CRAFTS VENDORS TO PARTICIPATE IN AIHA'S 2011 GIFT FAIR & FAMILY FESTIVAL

ALBANY, NY— The Albany Institute has issued a last call for local crafts vendors interested in participating in the 2011 Gift Fair & Family Festival taking place November 25, 26, 27. Those wishing to partake in the event should submit an application (available at [www.albanyinstitute.org/2011gfff.htm](http://www.albanyinstitute.org/2011gfff.htm)) by September 15, 2011.

The three-day Gift Fair coincides with the museum's annual Free Thanksgiving Weekend which offers visitors free admission to the museum throughout the day, supported by M&T Bank. This year's Family Festival will include a LEGO® building competition and LEGO® building demonstrations throughout the day. The event typically brings in over 3,000 individuals and families.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Bechand, Museum Shop Manager, by phone at (518) 463-4478, ext. 455 or by e-mail at [museumshop@albanyinstitute.org](mailto:museumshop@albanyinstitute.org).

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### *Related Programming:*

#### **SPECIAL EVENT—2011 Gift Fair & Family Festival**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 10:00 am–5:00 pm**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 10:00 am–5:00 pm**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 12:00–5:00 pm**

The Albany Institute of History & Art is happy to once again host the FREE Thanksgiving Weekend in conjunction with the Holiday Gift Fair—three full days of holiday fun for the entire family. Bring your holiday shopping list to the Albany Institute Gift Fair. The work of more than 50 vendors will be on display throughout the museum, showcasing beautiful and distinctive gifts by local jewelers, craftspeople, and artists. Members can enjoy a 10% discount from the Museum Shop as well as from participating vendors. This Gift Fair & Family Festival is supported by M&T Bank. ***This event is FREE and open to the public.***

#### **FAMILY FESTIVAL— LEGO® Building Challenge**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM, 2:00–4:00 PM**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM, 2:00–4:00 PM**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1:00–3:00 pm**

Take part in the LEGO® Building Challenge and create your own take on Albany's architecture. The challenge is open to individuals, partners and teams of all ages (up to four people per team). So grab your family, colleagues, and friends and get building! Basic LEGO®s will be provided, or you can bring your own. ***Spaces are limited so reservations are recommended.*** For more information contact Barbara Collins, Education Coordinator, at [collinsb@albanyinstitute.org](mailto:collinsb@albanyinstitute.org). Also taking place will be a demonstration by expert LEGO® builder, William Leue, throughout the three days. ***This event is FREE and open to the public.***

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](http://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute](http://www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute)).

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