

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

YEAR IN REVIEW





What a year it's been!

Since the arrival of our new Executive Director Kayla Carlsen in July 2024, the Albany Institute has seen a whirlwind of activity on all fronts. The past year has been a period of stabilization and foundation-building. Now, as we close out 2025, we are excited and ready to launch into 2026 with a renewed sense of purpose and vision. Here are a few highlights of the past year:

Since July 2024, we have organized nine special exhibitions, including *Delights of the Senses* and *People of the Waters That Are Never Still*, marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of Fort Orange; and *Americans Who Tell the Truth*, which inspired artist Robert Shetterly to add Dr. Alice P. Green to his pantheon of truth-tellers.

Our education programs have served over **10,000 people** through tours, hands-on activities, public programs, and events. Nearly **3,000 students** from more than 36 school districts and homeschool networks visited our galleries, including **every 5th grader** in Albany City Schools through our Egypt STEM program.

We opened our doors to nearly **22,000 visitors** last year and we expect to see an increase in museum attendance in 2025.

We welcomed nearly **300 new households** to our membership and launched a **Giving Circle program**.

Our annual **Museum Gala**, held in June at Forts Ferry Farm, was abuzz with excitement and merrymaking for the nearly **400 in attendance**.

We participated in activities in the community and onsite at the museum with more than **40 community partners**.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS



M. Christian Bender is the Founder of Chris Bender Consulting, a nonprofit consultancy based in the Capital Region. For 15 years, he was Executive Director of the Brighter Choice Foundation, which established a network of charter schools in Albany. After leaving Brighter Choice, Chris established Charter School Advisors, which provided facility development and financing services to charter schools statewide. He has served in senior management roles in other large nonprofits as well. For five years, he operated Genoa Importing, a landmark food business in Loudonville. Chris has served on numerous community boards including Green Tech High, the Albany Academies, Albany Medical Center Foundation, New York Charter School Association, The Fort Orange Club, Bender Family Foundation, and Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region. He holds a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Columbia University Teachers College and is a graduate of Rollins College, The Culinary Institute of America, and holds certificates in Nonprofit Finance from Cornell University and Board Consulting from BoardSource.



E. Stewart Jones was born and raised in Troy, New York. A graduate of Sacred Heart, Albany Academy, Williams College, and Albany Law School, he has been a life-long resident of the region. As a trial lawyer, he focused on criminal defense and representation of victims of medical malpractice, and general personal injury and wrongful death litigation. Stewart has served on numerous boards including the

Albany Academies, Legal Aid Society of NENY, and Albany Law School where he was Board Chair twice in his tenure. He has also chaired numerous capital campaigns focused on academic and medical causes, and established ten academic scholarships at the Albany Academies, Albany Law School, Williams College, and Dartmouth College. Stewart is pleased to bring his long history of regional philanthropy to the Institute as a new trustee.



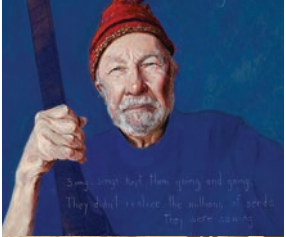
Daria Mallin is a Partner and Principal at Envision, and serves as President. She contributes a dynamic set of skills to the leadership of the firm. She is a vision-driven designer and passionate collaborator who believes communication and coordination are essential to the success of project teams. Her experience in the profession is complemented by her education in Architecture, Human-Environment

Relations, and Facilities Planning and Management, bringing a well-rounded sensibility to her work and design philosophies.



Mary Ellen Tomson is a lifelong historian and educator whose focus of work has been child centered, interdisciplinary, immersive, and artifact driven with an emphasis on the human and, often, female experience. She was a member of the history faculty at Albany Academy in Albany, New York, from 1989-1995 and 2006-2022. Mary Ellen volunteered in the Albany Academy Archives and was a museum teaching

volunteer assistant for on-site and off-site school programs at Historic Cherry Hill. Mary Ellen grew up in Albany, New York, attended the Academy of the Holy Names, earned a BA in American Studies and Anthropology at Franklin and Marshall College, and an MA in History at the University of Albany. Additionally, she was an Albany Institute summer intern in 1995. She is married to Anders Tomson, CEO of Chemung Canal Trust Company, and is the mother of two daughters.



Around the museum & on the road



New Acquisitions

This year brought exciting additions to the collection, including works by Tom Two Arrows, an Onondagan Lenni-Lenape artist who worked in Albany, and a luminous Hudson River School painting by Eliza Greatorex. We also received a major gift from the College of Saint Rose, preserving and showcasing the school's legacy for alumni and future generations.

Conservation

Samantha Huntley's *Woman in Green* from 1901 was conserved and exhibited in *Portrait Pairings* alongside Huntley's palette, paint brushes, and the artist's Albany Institute membership card from 1908. Funding for the conservation project was made possible through the sponsorship of the Mohawk Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Summer at AIHA

Thanks to the generous support of the Carl E. Touhey Foundation, hundreds of young visitors and their caretakers enjoyed free admission and hands-on art activities. Families and neighbors gathered for Music on the Lawn, and important facilities projects, including corbel repairs by Wainschaf Construction, were completed in late August.



Falling into Autumn

In the galleries, we're celebrating the 50th anniversary of Black Dimensions in Art, Inc. alongside *Jacob Lawrence: Three Series of Prints*. Later this season, *From the Hudson to the Nile* will honor Hudson Valley-born Egyptologist Dows Dunham. On November 14, join us as we raise a glass at *An Artful Evening*, a festive cocktail party hosted at the museum. Plus, stay tuned for the launch of our Bloomberg Connects digital guide, offering fresh ways to explore our collections and exhibitions.



AIHA On the Road

Works from our collection were loaned to Historic Deerfield (James Eights), Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University (Henry Ary), The Hyde Collection (Kay Sage, Walter Launt Palmer, James McNeill Whistler), and the National Museum in Budapest (Mihály Munkácsy), expanding the visibility of our holdings.

In the News

Our exhibitions were highlighted among the top destinations to visit by *Hyperallergic* and *Chronogram*, and we were voted Best Art Gallery in the *Times Union's* Best of the Capital Region. Our team made several TV and broadcast appearances, and we even launched our own podcast—*The Object Itself*—telling stories through objects from our collection.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

125 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12210
albanyinstitute.org • @albanyinstitute

MISSION

The Albany Institute of History & Art enriches the life of the region through the celebration of the art, history, and culture of the Hudson Valley and beyond.

VISION

The Albany Institute of History and Art seeks to be a vibrant, dynamic center for art and history, an international resource inspiring curiosity, connections, and community.

Arts and culture are not a luxury; rather, they are fundamental to our collective identity. By investing in these organizations, we are ...also driving economic growth, tourism, and educational opportunities for our residents. Together, we are building an environment where everyone has the opportunity to engage in the arts.

— Albany County Executive
Daniel McCoy

OFFICERS

George R. Hearst III, Chair
Alan P. Goldberg, Vice Chair
Leigh Metzger, Treasurer
Linda Jackson-Chalmers, Secretary

TRUSTEES

Wallace Altes
M. Christian Bender
Susan Blabey
Daniel Butterworth
Prentiss Carnell
Douglas L. Cohn, DVM
Keith Cunningham
Geraldine Golub
Denise Gorman
Ellen Jabbur
Mehak Jamil, Esq.
E. Stewart Jones
Robert J. Krackeler
Daria Mallin
Christine Miles Kelliher
Marcia Moss
Vicary Thomas
Mary Ellen Tomson
F. Michael Tucker
John G. Walsh III
Michael Zahler, Esq.

ASSOCIATES

Barbara Featherstonehaugh
Karen Hartgen Fisher
Michael M. Hayes
Nancy L. Hodes
Barbara K. Hoehn
Jean Lewis Maloy
Louise F. Marwill
Meaghan Murphy, Esq.
Susan O'Connor
John Puig
I. David Swawite
Miriam Tremontozzi
Sabrina M. Ty
Candace K. Weir
Judy White
Morgan White Whalen

TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Phoebe Powell Bender

EX-OFFICIO

The Honorable Kathy Sheehan

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kayla Carlsen

COMMUNICATIONS
Marisa Espe

CURATORIAL

Diane Shewchuk
Rebecca Chartier-Hobson
Sean Noonan

DEVELOPMENT

Christine Dollard
Betye Arrastia-Nowak
Elizabeth Vinciquerra

EDUCATION

Megan Brown
Janine Moon
Natalie Oliver

VISITOR SERVICES

Adam Dederick
Laura Morrill
Elizabeth Bechand
Cathy Whiston
John Dennehey
Pat Barrot

FACILITIES

Joe Benassi
Durrant Clarke

2024/2025 Major Funding

Leadership support for exhibitions and programs
provided by

Phoebe Powell Bender
Christine and George R. Hearst III
Carl E. Touhey Foundation

Marketing support provided by



Albany Institute programs and exhibitions are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.



**Council on
the Arts**

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY & MEDIA PARTNERS

Albany Black Chamber	Larkin Hi-Fi	
Albany City Schools	League of Women Voters	The 518
Albany Musicians Association	Muslim Advocacy Coalition	Artforum
Albany Pro Musica	New Netherland Institute	American Art Review
Albany Public Library	New York State Museum	Antiques & the Arts
Albany Symphony Vanguard	NYS Social Studies Conference	Art Town
Alice Moore Center	Opera Saratoga	Aura of Upstate
Black Dimensions in Art, Inc.	Pepper Floral	Berkshire Brochure Distribution
Black Theatre Troupe	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Capital District Moms
Capital District Links	RISSE	Capital Region Living
Capital Region Chamber	Russell Sage College	Chronogram
Cathedral of All Saints	Saint Andrew's Society	Daily Gazette
Circus	Sanctuary for Independent Media	Hearst Media
Clearwater	Sierra Club	Hudson Valley Magazine
CODEPINK	Thomas Cole Historic Site	Hyperallergic
College of Saint Rose	Underground Railroad Education Center	Lamar Advertising
Discover Albany	University at Albany	Metroland
FASNY Museum	YWCA of the Greater Capital Region	Spotlight News
Historic Albany Foundation		Times Union
J. McLaughlin		WAMC Radio
Ladybug Club		WMHT TV
		WRGB TV/CBS6