

PROGRAM

9:00 AM **BREAKFAST AND EXHIBIT HALL**
Breakfast generously sponsored by Textile Conservation Workshop

9:30 AM **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

10:00 AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS:**
Break out presentations by your peers: choose one

A. We Did It, You Can Too! How any museum can develop an interactive arts based program

Location: Weis Cinema

Ashley Stever and Jamie Smith Quinn, FASNY Museum of Firefighting

The FASNY Museum of Firefighting will present a panel presentation about the museum's GHHN Award winning program, "Arts on Fire". During the "Arts on Fire" camp, students explore the museum's collection and learn in depth about various art mediums that were used to create objects in the collection and other museum collections, via A/V. Each week, a different artist also explores that particular art medium with the students. Students then create their own projects to take home, using the art medium that they learned about. The presentation will explain how the FASNY Museum of Firefighting developed this program, how FASNY created partnerships to facilitate the program, how the museum built relationships with local artisans, and how grant funding was obtained. After the presentation, the panel will field questions and help participants brainstorm ideas on how an interactive arts based program can be implemented using their collection.

B. Reflections in Tea: The Art of Memory

Location: Multipurpose Room

Michele Brody, Independent Artist in collaboration with The Bronx Museum of the Arts

Michele Brody is a mixed-media installation artist whose artwork thrives on the interaction with new communities and environments. She has developed a unique practice of expressing the sense of a place through the interpretation of community members' stories, culture, history and architecture through her exhibitions and public art. Ms. Brody will present "Reflections in Tea," a 10-year long community-based, interactive project that engages the public in a multi-disciplinary, social-action program to preserve oral histories through the contemplative art of sharing Tea. After a slide presentation of "Reflections in Tea" and her past and current work in the art of interpreting history, Michele Brody will share a "CommuniTea" or tea tasting with attendees who will be asked to share their reflections on the Art of History.

C. Using Augmented Reality in a Photographic Exhibition

Location: Red Room

John Ansley, Ph.D., and Monish Singh, Marist College

Recently, the Marist College Archives and Special Collections experimented with Augmented Reality during a photographic exhibition featuring images from the Lowell Thomas Collection. The Aurasma App was used to enhance visitor experiences by allowing smart device users to bring the photos in the exhibit to life. This presentation will discuss how we selected photos with associated film footage from the Lowell Thomas Collection's 40,000 images and 4,200 reels of motion picture film, how we enabled the Aurasma App for the photo exhibition, and the simple way we were able to make it available to our visitors. Presentation audience members will have the opportunity to download the app and use it to make selected Lowell Thomas images "come to life" during this hands-on presentation.

D. Re-imagining Historic Native Life on the East End of Long Island

Location: Yellow Room

Georgette Grier-Key, Ed.D., Eastville Community Historical Society

This session illustrates the use of art and primary resources to develop the exhibit, "Native American Life on the East End". This acclaimed exhibition covers the Paleo-Indian Period to the continued presence of

Native Americans on the east end of Paumanok, the Native American name for Long Island. This exhibit evades the stereotypical imagery of Native Americans instead and showcases historic portraiture from the special collection of the Eastville Community Historical Society as well as more than 60 artifacts, including tintypes, cabinet cards, vintage and modern photographs, and contemporary artwork from artist and Shinnecock Indian Reservation resident David Bunn Martine. As a result of this exhibition, a thematic summer art camp and lecture series was also developed on Native American Life.

E. The Curse of the Picturesque: Maintenance Planning at Montgomery Place

Location: George Ball Lounge

Matt Alexander, OHR Preservation Services

Based on a recently completed condition assessment of the Montgomery Place mansion, this presentation will highlight some of the deleterious exterior conditions which have emerged during the transition period leading up to the estate's acquisition by Bard College. These observations are linked to the influence of the 'Picturesque' landscape design upon 19th-century American artistic and architectural interpretations. At the presentation's core is the following thesis: Specific characteristics of the Picturesque, as embodied in the A.J. Davis-designed architectural alterations at Montgomery Place, present uniquely severe challenges to long-term maintenance and stewardship. Suggestions are offered for collaborative maintenance efforts, which promote a cooperative preservation ethos among staff, specialists, and visitors alike.

10:50 AM EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK OFFICE HOURS WITH THE FUNDERS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

Morning coffee break generously sponsored by West Lake Conservators

11:10 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Break out presentations by your peers: choose one

A. History Comics Club: Connecting Students to their Heritage One Panel at a Time

Location: Weis Cinema

Emily Robinson and Susan Boudreau, Clermont State Historic Site

"History Comics Club" (HCC) is an after school program created by Clermont State Historic Site's Education Assistant Emily Robinson. HCC connects an undeserved population with their local history by mentoring students as they make comics about local historical people of interest. Through research and art instruction, HCC helps students build an interest in art and writing and create a sense of place and personal investment in our historic site for students and their families in the community. Every student who finishes their comic on time goes home with their own professionally-printed comic book. Throughout the presentation, Emily and Site Director Susan Boudreau will talk about the history of the program, why comics and graphic novels are such a valuable teaching tool, and how an educational comics club is structured. After the presentation, there will be a Q&A and time for the audience to read examples of student work.

B. The Story Sculptures of New York Female Laborers during the Industrial Era

Location: Multipurpose Room

Haifa Bint-Kadi, Artist/Groundwork Hudson Valley

The City of Yonkers Mill Street Daylighting 3 Park is home to the Mill Street sculptures – which are a series of steel sculptures created from actual photographs. Together, they tell the story of female laborers in the City of Yonkers during the industrial era. In this session, artist Haifa Bint-Kadi shares the story of their creation - from searching various New York State archives for photographs of female workers to the invention of a new technology to capture the realistic and photographic images in core-ten steel.

C. Intended and Accidental Beauty in the Archives

Location: Red Room

Maria Holden, New York State Archives and Geof Huth, New York State Unified Court System

By conscious effort or unintended consequence, beauty abounds even in archives that have little to do with art. Some records are deliberately pleasing, with flourishes of the pen added to everyday documents or small illustrations unnecessarily inserted onto maps or into volumes. Other instances of beauty come unintended by the record's creator, as the distance of time eventually makes another age's visual and linguistic process of writing alluring to those of us in the present. Even the course of aging and decay may create beauty. This session will provide, through a less-than-scholarly approach, a glimpse of such beauty as held by two archives at either end of the navigable reaches of the Hudson, the New York State Archives and the New York State Unified Court System, each responsible for over 300 years of documented history.

D. Who's the Expert? : Artists as Interpreters of Historic Sites

Location: Yellow Room

Amy Hufnagel, The Olana Partnership; Tom Lee, Master Storyteller and Artist

The Olana Partnership's Director of Education Amy Hufnagel will present with master storyteller and artist Tom Lee to share the ways in which contemporary working artists, creative non-fiction, fiction, and making the audience the *experts* can significantly enhance an historic site's tour experience for the visitor. Olana has implemented storytelling, the "Question Tour" and "Artists on Art Tours" at Olana as a means of constantly changing and expanding the interpretation of the 19th century home and landscape of painter Frederic Church. This presentation will include a general overview of the programs, their design and funding, and then case studies from the work. The session will layer the museum professional's point of view with the artist's point of view in this dynamic reinvention of historic tour models.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM LUNCHEON

Luncheon generously sponsored by Humanities NY

12:30 PM OPTIONAL MONTGOMERY PLACE HOUSE & GROUNDS TOUR

Self-guided tours of the house and the gardens are available between 12:20 PM and 2:15 PM – feel free to bring your box lunch and take in the spectacular views!

*Shuttle buses will leave from the Campus Center, but you are more than welcome to drive yourself over to Montgomery Place – please see the Check-in desk for a map. Shuttle buses will drop off riders in front of the mansion, self-driven cars must park in the Visitor Center lot and walk to the house. There are bathrooms available on site – both at the Visitor Center (10 minute stroll to house) and the Squash Court building (5 minute stroll to house). If you choose to ride the Shuttle bus, **please be aware that the last scheduled departure is at 2:20 PM.***

MONTGOMERY PLACE WALK AND TALK:

The Curse of the Picturesque: Maintenance Planning at Montgomery Place

Matt Alexander, OHR Preservation Services

Mr. Alexander will be on hand at Montgomery Place to conduct a "walk and talk" – a unique opportunity to see first-hand how specific characteristics of the Picturesque, as embodied in the A.J. Davis-designed architectural alterations at Montgomery Place, present uniquely severe challenges to long-term maintenance and stewardship. Meet on the porch at 1:00 PM.

12:40 PM OFFICE HOURS WITH THE FUNDERS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

1:00 PM PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

1:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Break out presentations by your peers: choose one

A. The Freedman's Lit! Think and Be, Live and Rise: Creating An Immersive Theater Experience

Location: Weis Cinema

Zenzele Cooper, Weeksville Heritage Center

"The Freedman's Lit! Think and Be, Live and Rise" is an immersive theater experience based on the only surviving copy of The Freedman's Torchlight, the 19th century newspaper printed in Weeksville, Brooklyn in December 1866. During the experience at Weeksville, audience members participate in the reconstruction of the story by traveling with performing artists outside onto the grounds of the historic 19th century community, inside an historic Hunterfly Road home, and through the Weeksville Heritage Center. This session will explore the conception and direction of this immersive theater production.

B. A Sculptor's Rain Garden: Honoring the Enslaved Africans of Philipse Manor Hall through the Arts

Location: Multipurpose Room

Vinnie Bagwell, Sculptor

The Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden is a public-art initiative commemorating the lives of enslaved Africans who lived at the Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers – six of whom were the first to be manumitted by law in the United States in 1799. In this session, artist Vinnie Bagwell will discuss her vision for the project which focusing on remembering the lives, the feelings, and the legacy of men, women and children who were stripped of their human rights.

C. Virginia Founding Fathers travel through the Hudson Valley

Location: Red Room

Kyle Jenks, James Madison Interpreter

This hybrid session is part stage performance and part conversation. Professional James Madison interpreter Kyle Jenks will treat us to an excerpt from his performance of "Virginia Founding Fathers travel through the Hudson Valley", which tells the story of James Madison and Thomas Jefferson's journey to the Northern states in 1791. Afterwards, Mr. Jenks will share with session attendees the research process that goes into creating an artistic expression that is also historically accurate.

D. Connecting Visitors with Nature and Art: User Friendly Programs at Weir Farm NHS

Location: Yellow Room

Jessica Kuhn and Kristin Lessard, Weir Farm National Historic Site

Weir Farm National Historic Site was the summer home and artistic retreat of Julian Alden Weir, a turn of the century American artist and leading figure in American Impressionism. The Branchville, Connecticut farm is a key place in American art history as it directly influenced Weir's change from the Academic style of painting to American Impressionism. Weir's landscape is central to park interpretation and a number user friendly programs are designed for visitors to delve into the connection between art and nature. To break through barriers and make art accessible for all, these user friendly programs – all with slightly different focuses and goals – encourage and (gently) guide visitors to experience art in nature as part of the "Art in the Park" program. Programs to be discussed are "Take Part in Art", "Impressionist Painting Workshops" (including Night Painting), "Painting Sites & Installation Art", "View Poles", and "Explore Your Senses" Junior Ranger Program.

2:30 FEATURED SESSION: IS IT FUNDABLE? AN OPEN DISCUSSION WITH FUNDERS

Location: Multipurpose Room

Now that you have been inspired by the many ways the arts can be infused into your exhibitry and interpretative programming, the question remains – how will you fund it? Join us for an open discussion with representatives from the Arts Mid-Hudson, ArtsWestchester, Coby Foundation, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Humanities New York, and the New York State Council on the Arts to discuss

their funding opportunities for arts-based projects and programs. Bring your questions and be prepared to be inspired!

**3:20 PM EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK
OFFICE HOURS WITH THE FUNDERS (SIGN UP REQUIRED)**
Afternoon coffee break generously sponsored by The Found Object Art Conservation

3:50 PM CLOSING ACTIVITY: PUZZLING THROUGH THE PAST
Location: Multipurpose Room

An 'Escape Room' is an adventure game in which players solve a series of puzzles using clues, hints and strategy. An increasing number of heritage sites are using the Escape Room concept as a unique method for highlighting their site's collections and story while encouraging visitor and community engagement – especially younger visitors!

We invite you to join in the fun and take part in *The Case of the Livingston Silver* – where the concept of an Escape Room has been adapted into a portable format, using reproduction materials from Montgomery Place's extensive archival collection. We'll work in teams to experience this emerging trend and explore the potential rewards of implementing a similar program at your site!

The Case of the Livingston Silver

In 1886, a break-in occurred at Montgomery Place and more than 100 pieces of silver were stolen. It's never been recovered. Now it's up to you to find it! Race against the clock and solve the puzzles to locate the silver before someone else does!

4:30 PM SEND-OFF

BREAKFAST, WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS, LUNCHEON, and Awards for Excellence will all take place in the Multipurpose Room.

10:50 AM – 3:45 PM OFFICE HOURS

This year, we are again offering office hours that give you the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from the following grant funding organizations: Arts Mid-Hudson, ArtsWestchester, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Humanities New York, New York State Archives, New York State Council on the Arts, and the Preservation League of New York State. Office hours will be on-going throughout the Conference. Appointments are first come, first served. **Advance sign-up required.**

Sign-Up sheets are located at the Check-In Desk.

#theartofhistory